Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 234 | MONDAY OCTOBER 3, 2011 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest, rate the clarity with which the USCIS outreach team explained the various provisions of the CW rule:

1	42
2	14
3	26
4	15
5	26

Sunday, October 02, 2011

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New Officers

The Palauan Community Association Youth Club elects new officers.

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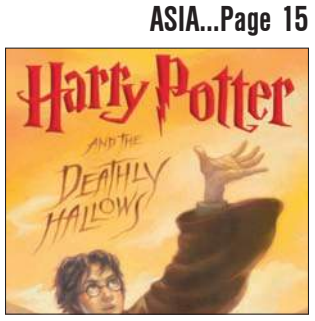
Deadly Weather

Back-to-back typhoons leave at least 55 people dead in the Philippines.

ASIA...Page 15



Postponed

Harry Potter fans will have to wait a bit longer to buy the magic tales in electronic form.

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More child tax checks released

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said yesterday that close to half a million dollars of child tax credit checks for some 350 taxpayers were released on Friday—welcome news for parents who have yet to receive their children's share of the federal program funding.

Larson

There are also parents who just learned from Finance's Revenue and Taxation Division that their applications have deficiencies so they may have to wait a little longer for their checks to be released.

Julius Pagaduan, a father of four, said Rev&Tax told him Tuesday that they needed validation of his Social Security number which he immediately provided, hoping that it was the only thing that's keeping the division from releasing his child tax credit check.

He said he expects some $3,000 in child tax credit check, which he relies on for his four children's additional school needs.

"Good thing I checked on Tuesday, and that's when they told me there's a deficiency. I hope they will release our checks soon since I corrected the deficiency," Pagaduan, a San Jose resident who works as a security guard, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Susan Sy, of Navy Hill, separately said yesterday that when she checked with Fi-

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PRETTY IN PINK

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores and Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez are flanked by DPH and Mayor's Office staff, breast cancer survivors, and other community partners during the proclamation signing designating October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Villagomez emphasized the importance of early detection in the fight against the most common type of cancer among the women in the CNMI.

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Anguish and anger at retirees' meeting

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over 150 disgruntled retirees and their families gathered Thursday night at the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center to voice out their collective anguish over the current state of the pension plan after being made to believe that it would provide them a comfortable life when they retire after long years of government service.

Sixty-two-year-old Fred Prosser said he is sick and tired of the continued inaction of the government and the Legislature to address the chronic problems of the system and is particularly aggrieved that retirees are being made to worry about their health insurance.

Felipe Fejeran appealed to other retirees to continue the fight even if it in-

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Committee markup on Kilili's 1466 on Oct. 5

Sablan

» Some call for 'stop work' this morning

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee has set an Oct. 5 markup on Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 1466, which proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for four groups of people. This early, some worker groups in the CNMI are hoping that the bill will be voted on the floor by the full U.S. House membership.

See COMMITTEE on Page 4

Local

First CNMI prevailing wage survey results now out

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Today marks the first time in CNMI history when employers will have data on prevailing wage rates that reflect the current conditions on the islands and not the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, or Guam, which they could use to, among other things, support applications for their employees' H1B visa or other Immigration and Nationality Act work visas.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which initiated the project, starts releasing today the results of the "2011 Survey of Wages and Salaries Among Specified Jobs and Organizations in the CNMI."

A total of 8,675 jobs are represented in the survey results.

Because of the Chamber's copyright policies, the wages covered in the survey could not be released at this time.

But one of the most popular job titles—accountants/auditors—would show that the lowest salary rate is $5.05 an hour, which is the CNMI's current minimum wage, while the highest rate is $37.50 an hour. The average rate is $11.35 an hour, and the median wage is $9.62 an hour.

Of the 452 survey forms distributed, 218 or nearly 50 percent were returned.

A number of companies did not participate because they were not going to ever apply for H1B visas or other types of work visas for their employees.

The survey comprised a study of 1) wages and salaries, and 2) common benefits among surveyed organizations.

When asked for comment yesterday, Chamber executive director Richard Pierce said the "benefits section of the summary report will not be released for another one week."

"We wanted to get the wage summary report as quickly as possible," he said.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan, in a statement, said that CNMI employers now have an option besides accepting the prevailing wage rates of Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland for their H-1B visa applications, "where up until [this] week, there would have been no other choice for those submitting those petitions."

Those who did not participate in the survey can obtain a copy from the Chamber if they pay $500.

Companies and organizations that completed the survey will receive the wage and salary summary report, a list of organizations participating in the wage and salary survey, and a document titled, "Methods and Procedures of the Survey."

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, believes this survey report represents the majority of those employers who would apply for many of their employees fitting into specialized and professional jobs classifications where H-1B work visas will be their best available option under the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's authority.

The Chamber contracted the Employers Council to conduct the actual survey, with funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

CULTURAL CLUB CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Kagman High School's Refalewasch Cultural Club have their picture taken after performing for visitors from the Komoba Toho High School, an all-boys school in Tokyo Japan.

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Judge: Charges vs 2 owners of remittance center timely filed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has ruled that the charges brought against the co-owner of a defunct remittance company who has been indicted on charges of alleged conspiracy to defraud a Philippine bank were timely filed.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood determined that Haydn L. Villegas' last overt act occurred on Jan. 17, 2007, and that the grand jury returned the indictment on Dec. 16, 2010—within five years of the last overt act.

"Thus, the charge of conspiracy is not barred by the statute of limitations," said Tydingco-Gatewood in her Friday order that denied Villegas' motion to dismiss the case.

Villegas, co-owner of the defunct Philippine Express Remittance, allegedly defrauded the Philippine National Bank of about $109,855. He pleaded not guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

In a motion to dismiss, Villegas, through counsel G. Anthony Long, argued that the five-year limitation period applies to the case and that the last act in furtherance of the conspiracy occurred more than five years prior to filing of the indictment against him.

Long said the last alleged overt act occurred on May 13, 2005, when Ana Villegas, wife of Haydn Villegas, transacted at PNB Foreign Exchange a "counter" check in the amount of $7,500, which was later returned due to insufficient funds.

The U.S. government disagreed, arguing that the last overt act was Haydn and Ana Villegas' maintenance of their bankruptcy suit.

In denying the motion, Tydingco-Gatewood said the defendants maintained the bankruptcy action to prevent PNB from taking legal action to collect on the fraudulently obtained funds. As part of the conspiracy, the judge said, the Villegas couple ultimately wanted to discharge their "debt" to PNB.

"The possibility of discharge was not foreclosed until the case was dismissed on Jan. 17, 2007. Accordingly, the dismissal of the bankruptcy case on Jan. 17, 2007, was the last overt act," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

Executive Branch takes over Medicaid, medical referral

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After years of administering the Medicaid and medical referral programs, the Public Health Department has let go of both programs with the formal implementation of the Commonwealth Health Corp. beginning this fiscal year.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that the Executive Branch has now full jurisdiction over the federally funded Medicaid program and medical referrals outside the CNMI.

However, medical referrals within the three main islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will remain under the corporation's responsibility, he said.

With the turnover, the Office of the Governor will now officially administer the operation of Medicaid, which receives federal funding through an approved 45-55 fund matching requirements.

"What this means is the corporation will now become a vendor of the Medicaid program, like other private clinics. The corporation will be billing the Governor's Office for the Medicaid services we provide," he said.

Under the previous practice when Medicaid was under DPH, there was no "sense of urgency" in paying the hospital for the services it provided as it was the Legislature that appropriated the amount, Villagomez said.

"Now that we're an autonomous agency and we need the money to come to us to continue the service, we're hoping that we are the payee of first resort," he said.

Villagomez said the CNMI receives about $5 million to $6 million from Medicaid each year. However, because there is a cap on the federal amount for the program, any excess amount has to be shouldered by the central government, he said.

"Typically, the cap is $5 million to $6 million per year. If the local government puts in $3 million, the federal government has to put in $4 million and once the cap is reached, anything beyond the amount is responsibility of the central government. So if the total expenditure is $8 million, the central government has to shoulder the other $2 million," he explained.

Medicaid is a state administered program and each state sets its own guidelines regarding eligibility and services. It is available only to certain low-income individuals and families who fit into an eligibility group that is recognized by federal and state laws. Medicaid does not pay money to eligible clients. Instead, it sends payments directly to their health care providers. Depending on each state's rules, patients may also be asked to pay a small part of the cost for some medical services.

Villagomez said the Executive Branch will now also be responsible for managing the off-island medical referral trips of patients.

DPH earlier revealed that it spent $16.3 million in referring medical cases to various medical facilities outside the Commonwealth in the last four fiscal years, ending in 2009. Fiscal year 2009 had the highest expenditure of $7.4 million for 907 patients. This is an over 50 percent increase from 2008's expenses of $4.4 million for 716 cases.

In 2007, CHC noted 565 medical referral cases and spent $1.5 million compared to $2.8 million spent in 2006 for 526 cases.

'$5M seed money'

The government has provided the corporation $5 million as seed money. Villagomez said the money may or may not be used right away, depending on the needs of the corporation.

"The $5 million is pretty much open. We have to prioritize how best we can use that amount. But our goal is to generate revenue and if it comes in, we may not touch the $5 million and save it for rainy days," he said.

Villagomez said the corporation is expected to provide autonomy and management flexibility to the Department of Public Health and will also improve management efficiency by allowing managers to better focus on hospital operations.

Man who allegedly impregnated minor gets more time to contact DNA expert

A Guam resident who is facing charges in federal court for allegedly impregnating a female minor on Rota has been given more time to contact a DNA expert.

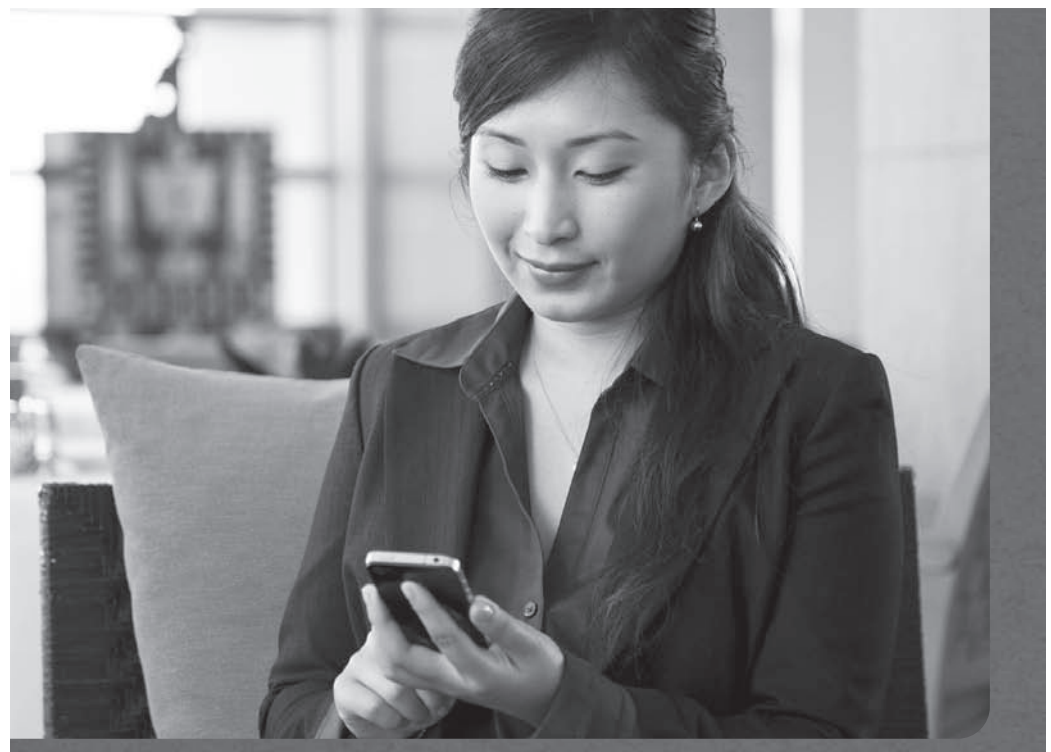
In an order issued Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood granted Melvin David Diaz's request and set the case for another status hearing today, Oct. 3.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that Diaz, through counsel, had informed the court that he was still trying to contact this DNA expert. Diaz said the contact with the expert will determine the expert's readiness to testify at trial.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that going ahead with the trial without the benefit of this expert would likely result in a miscarriage of justice.

The 49-year-old Diaz is charged with three counts of enticement of a minor and one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

According to the indictment, Diaz traveled to the CNMI between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30, 2010, for the purpose of engaging in illicit sex with the minor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



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Book donation headed to three Micronesian islands

More than $700 in donated books are on their way to community libraries in the central Pacific, thanks to a U.S.-based charity called "Habele."

The donation, composed primarily of books dealing with Micronesian and Oceanic topics, is headed to the atolls of Woleai and Lamotrek as well as the island of Satawal. All three are located among the Outer Islands of Yap State, itself one of four states in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The books are just the most recent in a years-long series of Habele donations to schools across Yap and Chuuk States.

Despite millions of dollars in direct government-to-government support from the U.S. to the FSM, many of the public schools on remote Outer and Lagoon Islands of Micronesia still lack basic instructional materials.

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, public sector spending of foreign government assistance comprises 65 percent of the entire Micronesian Gross Domestic Product. Despite the massive aid, GAO concludes that "the FSM has limited prospects for achieving budgetary self-reliance and long-term economic advancement." It also cites limited academic achievement as a major impediment to employment among Micronesians in both the U.S. and the FSM.

The Habele Outer Island Education began directly supporting libraries and schools across Micronesia in 2006. More than 30 boxes of textbooks, reference books and reading materials have been provided to public school educators in Micronesia so far this year. Habele also provides assistance for students attending private schools through a program of K-12 tuition scholarships. Two dozen students were awarded scholarships to attend prestigious private schools in Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei this school year.

"We think education is the key to development in Micronesia and across the Pacific" explained Alex Sidles, a Habele director. "But we can't rely on the one-size-fits-all approach of big government bureaucracies to meet the specific needs of each and every student and school." ***(Habele)***

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Over 150 members of the Commonwealth Retirees Association and their families gather Friday night at American Memorial Park Visitors Center where they expressed their views and opinions on several issues surrounding the pension program. The more-than-two-hour assembly highlighted the emotional appeal of retirees to both the government and Legislature to immediate take action about the dwindling situation of the Fund.

ANGUISH

From Page 1

volves more lawsuits. He described the government and the Legislature as "a house full of corrupt people" who do not care about retired persons. "We need to fight for this one and let's continue to go to court. God is watching us," he told the crowd at the jampacked visitor center.

The two blamed the mess on the government abandoning the pension plan as its main sponsor by not fulfilling its obligation for many years, resulting in the collapse of the NMI Retirement Fund's assets. The Legislature further muddied the troubled situation, they said, because of several legislation it passed that gave members too generous benefits and unfunded privileges, among others.

A newly offered bill at the House of Representatives that would allow non-retired members to withdraw their contributions without severance of employment or penalty also got some flak, with majority of retirees wanting its proponent, House Speaker Eli Cabrera, to withdraw House Bill 17-226.

Cabrera was reportedly at the meeting but was nowhere to be found when called to speak before the retirees.

Agnes McPhetres encouraged fellow retirees to speak with one voice in convincing Cabrera to withdraw this bill to prevent more chaos in the pension system.

With an asset portfolio currently valued at less than $300 million, the NMI Retirement Fund has been projected to collapse in just three years. The Fund pays out $63 million in pension benefits to members every year.

Although some retirees are willing to support idea of cutting the amount of benefits paid to members, retiree Dave Sablan is opposed to the idea, describing this approach as "unfair to those retired people" who religiously put in their share into the program.

A group of retirees also expressed unwillingness to "sacrifice" their benefits and urged the association to force the central government to put in its share and explore the idea of acquiring its assets to fulfill its unpaid obligation to the Fund.

Based on 2009 court judgment, the government owes the Fund over $231 million in employer contributions. This figure continues to grow.

Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar and Fund administrator Richard Villagomez acknowledged the severe financial problem of the central government but said that its "assurance" that it will pay off a significant portion of the debt and continue to remit annually will help extend the life of the pension system.

"I am very happy to see that our retirees got together and voiced their opinions. I think whether there's a concrete plan or not, what's important was the communication because it will help them in making decisions," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting.

Kilili's proposal

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, in a message to retirees, said that transferring active members to the Social Security Administration is one way to help the Fund's situation.

He disclosed that he started communicating with SSA in May 2009 on the issue because of the anticipated Fund problem.

"SSA said they will come in to analyze and review the contributions of the government employees into the Fund and will propose a different mechanism in which SSA would take present employees of the government," explained Sablan, adding that SSA is still willing to work with the government on this approach.

However, any decision on this has to be made locally—by the central government, the Fund, and retirees.

Igisomar disclosed that there are 2,996 active employee members of the Fund.

Sablan said if active employee members will not be taken out, their number will double in three to five years time.

"We need to reduce the defined benefit plan members and the only way to do it is get into the SSA and guaranteed, they will get something when they retire. And since we cannot find money to pump in to the Fund right now, the alternative is reduce the size to make it manageable," added Sablan.

Igisomar said he welcomes the congressman's proposal but the Fund's immediate concern is "how do we take care of the retirees now."

COMMITTEE

From Page 1

Sablan's HR 1466 is one of 21 bills up for markup on Wednesday at 10am in Washington, D.C. (Thursday, Saipan time).

A markup is the process by which congressional committees and subcommittees debate, amend, and rewrite proposed legislation.

Sablan, who went back to the nation's capital during the weekend, said he hopes that the committee will allow his bill to be voted on the floor by the full membership.

He, however, said the chance of HR 1466 becoming law by Nov. 27 is slim.

Rene Reyes, president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs, said yesterday HR 1466 will be a big help to U.S. citizen children's foreign parents, especially those who just lost their jobs because of the economy, for them to be able to lawfully remain in the CNMI after Nov. 27.

He also said if there is a chance to further amend H.R. 1466, he hopes it would be to add a fifth group of individuals that will be covered—legal foreign workers who have worked for at least five years as of May 2008, regardless of whether they have children or none.

"We are not losing sight of what we have been fighting for," he said.

If this is not possible at this point, Reyes said they are still thankful that Sablan has been trying to help families remain intact.

Bonifacio Sagana, of Dekada Movement, separately said yesterday that he's "happy" to know that Sablan's HR 1466 is moving forward.

"It just shows that Kilili is sincere in his efforts to help those who will be affected, like the immediate relatives or parents of U.S. citizen children who are having a hard time finding a job. I am happy about the bill, even though some people would want it to include everyone," he said.

The four groups covered in HR 1466 are CNMI permanent residents; those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974, and Jan. 9, 1978; the spouses or children, "as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)), of an alien described in subclauses (I) or (II)"; and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens regardless of the age of the U.S. citizen.

Morning rally

Meanwhile, some community members have been calling for a "stop work" rally among foreign workers at 8am today at the American Memorial Park.

Saipan-born California student Kelvin Rodeo, other youths, and some members of the foreign worker community on Saipan, said the goal of the morning rally is to let the CNMI feel what it would be like if there were no foreign workers in the CNMI.

Others said they would have wanted to join the morning rally but are worried that they might lose their job if they don't show up for work on a Monday morning.

CHILD TAX

From Page 1

nance on Friday, she also found out that there was a deficiency in their application so she corrected the deficiency that same day.

"Early on, I was hoping that I'd get the checks, but because of the deficiency which I corrected on Friday, maybe I have to wait a little while longer," said Sy, whose two children are enrolled in a private school.

The mother of two said she looks forward to the child tax credit checks to be able to pay for her children's registration and book fees.

Another Navy Hill resident, a 39-year-old mother of two, said she hopes she's one of the estimated 350 taxpayers whose checks were released on Friday.

"I haven't paid my children's book fees yet and I'm waiting for the child tax credit check to pay for that. The check will also go into defraying costs for the school uniform, school fees and other school expenses," she said. Her two children are in private school.

Friday's release of checks was the fourth batch of child tax credit checks, the Finance secretary said.

Larson said the Department of Finance submitted its fifth batch to the IRS about a week ago. Because IRS had to close fiscal year 2011, "there is going to be a slight delay in the release of the fifth batch."

"We expect to receive that next batch when the IRS starts their new fiscal year in a week or so," Larrisa told *Saipan Tribune*.

She also said that Finance has processed "almost all of the child tax payments that are pending to date."

"So if taxpayers are expecting child tax credit payments and have not received them by October 15th, we would like to ask for taxpayers to call the Division of Revenue and Taxation and see if there is a correction and/or amendment that needs to be made to their return," Larson added.

Since early September, Finance has already released some 5,000 child tax credit checks worth up to $6 million.

The first batch alone included some 3,500 checks—the biggest bulk of checks whose release coincided with the first week of opening of public schools in early September, providing relief to many parents who rely on the child tax credit check to buy school supplies and help pay for tuition.

The federal child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17. It is worth up to $1,000 per "qualifying" child.

In general, a "qualifying" child is any individual for whom the taxpayer can claim a dependency exemption and who is the taxpayer's son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister, or eligible foster child.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier said after the child tax credit checks are released, the Fitial administration will start looking at tax rebate and refund checks, which he said will be released no later than December.

New budget restores extended hours at public library

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library patrons can now take advantage of the CNMI state library's extended hours this new fiscal year with the enactment of the new budget bill, Public Law 17-55.

Executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales said yesterday that the new law reinstated longer hours for JKPL, which is now open five days a week.

The new hours for JKPL are Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm, and Saturday, from 9am to 4pm.

Gonzales said the new budget also allotted funding for seven full-time library employees, one for the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library in Rota, and two for the Tinian Public Library. The library also has six federally funded part-time staff.

According to Gonzales, the library management spent "long and valuable hours" to provide the Legislature hard data that will justify the restored hours and positions.

Gonzales said the basic staffing and expanded library hours will benefit library patrons and allow the library to provide family-centered lifelong literacy activities and programs and comprehensive library collections.

These activities include Movie Nights on Wednesdays from 4pm to 6pm and Read Aloud & Arts Craft every 10:30am on Saturdays.

CNMI Library Council chair Jose T. Limes, for his part, said that Public Law 17-55 "indubitably demonstrates the renewed unconditional and unfettered support" of the Legislature and the current administration toward education and for educational institutions.

For more information, stop by the public libraries, visit www.cnmilibrary.com or call JKPL at 235-READ (7323) or 7322, Tinian Public Library at 433-0504, and Rota Public Library at 532-9451. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

RENAMING CEREMONY

Children enrolled at the Head Start Center in Garapan wait for the ceremony to start for the renaming of the center to the Joaquina M. Rabauliman Head Start Center on Thursday, Sept. 29. The children were joined by government officials, community members, and the children and siblings of Rabauliman for the "very historic occasion" in the CNMI and the Carolinian community's history.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lujan accuses Hillbroom, former trustee of collusion to extort money

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guam attorney David J. Lujan has accused his former client, Junior Larry Hillbroom, the DNA-proven son of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom, of colluding with Hillbroom's former trustee to extort monies from him and attorney Barry J. Israel.

Lujan, through counsel Theodore W. Frank, alleged that Hillbroom and Keith Waibel, the former trustee of JLH Trust (Junior Larry Hillbroom), are "locked together in this extortionary enterprise" against him (Lujan) and Israel.

In Lujan's motion to dismiss Waibel's complaint, Frank disclosed that Waibel and Hillbroom are currently business partners in a call center venture named Oceania Partners Property Ventures, Inc., based in Cebu, the Philippines.

Frank said that Waibel and Hillbroom in 2006 also invested together in a purported bridge loan venture to facilitate the financing of condominium conversions in Hawaii. He described this investment as "actually a scam."

The lawyer said that Hawaiian lawyer Mel Agana is representing Waibel and Hillbroom to pursue their remedies against the perpetrators of the scam in the resulting Hawaii District Court civil action and bankruptcy.

Hillbroom, who is now based in Idaho, is suing Lujan and 10 other unnamed co-defendants for legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, racketeering activity, civil conspiracy, and violations of the California Business and Professions Code.

Hillbroom filed the original lawsuit against Lujan in the Central District of California in 2009. The case was dismissed though, after the court found it did not have personal jurisdiction over him. This prompted Hillbroom to file the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Hillbroom is suing Israel in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings.

Hillbroom named Waibel as co-defendant, for negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and racketeering activity.

Waibel denied the allegations and filed a cross-claim against Israel and Lujan.

In Lujan's motion to dismiss, Frank said that Waibel's complaint is wholly contingent on Hillbroom's suit because Waibel has not alleged any independent claims against Lujan.

Frank said that Waibel's complaint simply asserts claims for indemnity and contribution, alleging that, if he is found liable under Hillbroom's complaint, Lujan should indemnify him.

"This is in stark contrast to Waibel's cross-complaint against Lujan in the prior California case where Waibel asserted a claim for fraud directly against Lujan in conjunction with claims for indemnity and contribution," Frank said.

Waibel, Frank said, has now abandoned any direct claims against Lujan, so as Hillbroom's complaint falls, so does Waibel's third-party complaint.

HARDT
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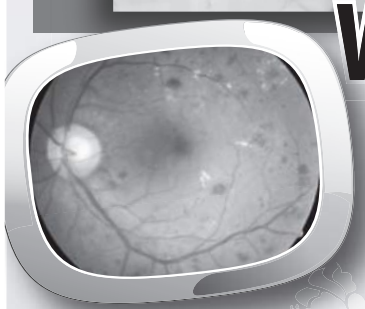

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- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- At least two years hemodialysis experience and plus one year as a charge nurse in dialysis.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified Nephrology Nurse-(CNN) Preferred.
- Flexible with time schedule

Registered Nurse (5 positions) - $9.00 - $15.00 an hour
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Be certified nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred.

Licensed Practical Nurse (1 position) - $7.00 – 9.00 an hour
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

Hemodialysis Technician (7 positions) - $7.00 - $9.00 an hour
- Certificate from a Junior College/Technical school in health care related field
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- One year hemodialysis experience-preferred
- Must be CCHT certified by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

Building Maintenance & Repair (2 positions) - $7.00 - $9.00 an hour
- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, and security systems.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and petitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience is required.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

Water Treatment Technician (2 positions) - $6.00 - $8.00 an hour
- The water treatment technician must be able to perform a number of tasks which may at first glance not appear difficult but require a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain the system. The ideal employee will posses:
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory of fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems.
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit.
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities.
- Be familiar with the safety and life safety policies.
- Pass the U.S. Environmental protection Agency test for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II.
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing techniques.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with electricity.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels.
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques especially when working with pvc.
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned.

Interested applicants must submit applications or resume to
Saint Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. *at Chalan Kiya, Saipan.*

‘Early detection is key to surviving breast cancer’

» October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez underscored the importance of early detection in the fight against the most common type of cancer among CNMI women.

“We want to spread the word to the community about early detection, especially those with family members who have had cancer. Early detection can [help one] survive this disease,” Villagomez said.

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores signed Friday the proclamation designating October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This year’s theme is “Stomp Out Breast Cancer.”

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mayor Donald G. Flores, second right, signs the proclamation designating October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month at the mayor’s conference room on Sept. 30. Also in photo are, from left, breast cancer survivors Bobby Ayres, Maggie Camacho, and Monica Manalo, and Public Health secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

Villagomez said that educating and informing the public about breast cancer awareness is one thing. “An equally important part is for women to be more on top of things and come in… I hope that women do access preventive services.”

According to Villagomez, both breast cancer and cervical cancer are “unfortunately quite deadly” if they remain undetected at their early stages.

“But if detected enough, the survivability rate is extremely high and we’re hoping that men support women to get early detection,” he added.

Flores, who echoed Villagomez’s message, urged women in the community to make an appointment with medical professionals to get detected for this “horrific” and “deadly” disease.

“We want to pass on the message on breast cancer awareness not only this month but everyday of our lives,” added Flores.

The mayor’s conference room in Afetna was suffused with a pink glow Friday as DPH and mayor’s office staffers, community partners, and breast cancer survivors wore pink shirts and pink ribbons, the international symbol of breast cancer awareness.

Two candles were lit before the start of the proclamation signing: one for those affected by breast cancer and another for those who have already passed away.

Breast cancer survivors Bobby Ayres, Maggie Camacho, and Monica Manalo each read parts of the proclamation.

“Early detection is always best,” Manalo, a breast cancer survivor for 10 years, said in an interview. “Once you feel something isn’t right, get checked.”

Camacho said that early detection helped save her life—a mammogram back in 2004 helped detect the lump in her breast.

“You have to be aware of your body and what it tells you. Having positive attitude and faith in the Lord is also important,” she said. “I encourage every single woman in the community, whether or not there has been cancer in the family, that early detection is the best protection.”

Fernando P. Benavente, chair of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month Committee, said they have lined up several activities, including the Stomp Out Breast Cancer Walk on Oct. 11 and 25, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm from Garapan Fishing Base to China House Restaurant and back; village screening on Oct. 7 at Horiguchi Bldg. and Oct. 15 at Kagman Village; and Celebrity Bagging on Oct. 8 and Oct. 22.

Benavente said there will be village screenings on Oct. 21 and 29 but the venue will be announced soon.

“Let’s all work together to stomp out breast cancer,” he added.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

United States Air Force

The U.S. Air Force will host open house public scoping meetings on the islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to discuss the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is being prepared for improving an existing airfield on U.S. territory in proximity of the Philippine Sea. The proposed airfield improvements would be designed to provide the additional divert capability when necessary for sustained military aircraft operations, including joint training exercises, humanitarian assistance activities, and disaster relief operations for northeast Asia. The U.S. Air Force proposes to develop and construct facilities and infrastructure to support up to one aircraft squadron and its approximately 500 support personnel for periodic exercises, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The U.S. Air Force intends to meet its mission needs through improvement of an existing airfield in the Mariana Islands region.

The public is encouraged to attend the open house EIS scoping meetings, which will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

1. Thursday, October 13, 2011 - Barrigada Mayor’s Office, Barrigada, Guam, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
2. Friday, October 14, 2011 - Dededo Mayor’s Office/Senior Center, Dededo, Guam, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
3. Monday, October 17, 2011 - Saipan Multi-Purpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
4. Tuesday, October 18, 2011 - Tinian Elementary School, San Jose Village, Tinian, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
5. Thursday, October 20, 2011 - Sinapalo Elementary School Rota, Sinapalo Village, Rota, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Federal agencies, government of Guam agencies, government of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) agencies, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to provide verbal and/or written comments to the U.S. Air Force to identify specific issues or topics for consideration in the EIS. Verbal and/or written comments may be submitted at the public meetings. Interested agencies, individuals, and groups unable to attend the public meetings are encouraged to provide written comments postmarked no later than November 10, 2011.

Mail comments to:

Capt Kimberly Bender, PACAF/PA
25 E Street, Suite G-108
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96853
ATTN: PACAF Divert Marianas EIS

In addition, scoping comments will be accepted via telephone voice recording system by dialing 1-855-200-6734, and via the project website at:

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
“Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members”

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF11-006
“GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES”

OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2011 CLOSING DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2011

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:
Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
“Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members”

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF11-007
“OFFICE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES”

OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2011 CLOSING DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2011

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:
Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DCCA/NAP-131

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, N.A.P. DIVISION”

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

/S/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DCCA/NAP-132

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2011 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

“NAP COUPON PRINTING AGENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, N.A.P. DIVISION”

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THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

/S/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP11-OPA-143

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR FISICAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011”

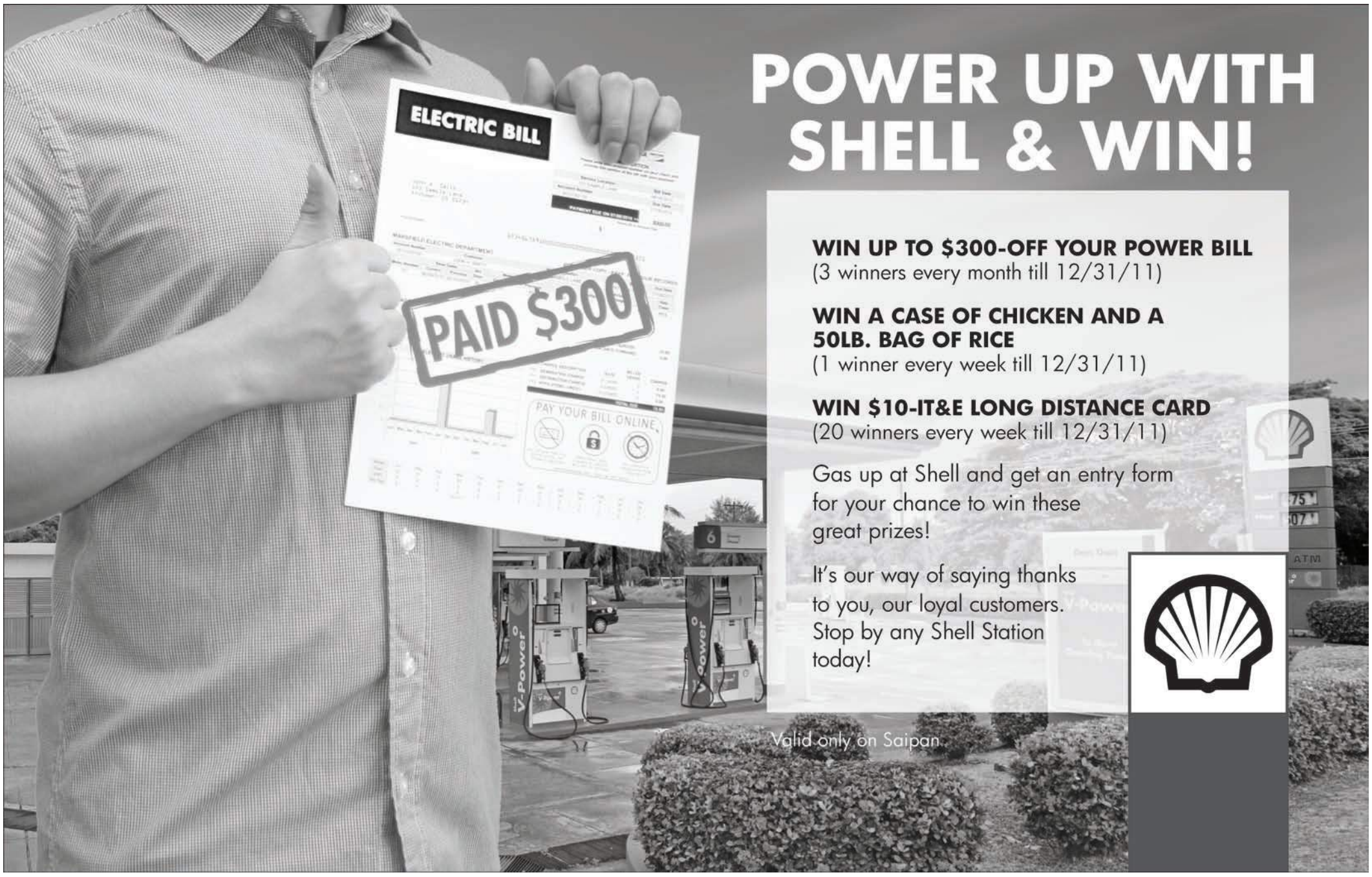
COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSAURO D. ZAPANTA, AUDIT MANAGER, AT THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR AT (670) 322-6481

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED

/S/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S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Palauan youth group elects new officers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Palauan Community Association Youth Club elected and swore in its new officers for 2011-2012 at the Laly 4 Chalan Kanoa Beach on Oct. 1.

The new youth officers are Vicente "VJ" Cabrera, president; Tyrone Ilemelong, vice president; Galelynn Martin, secretary; Godiva Asanuma, treasurer; and Mario Brel, human resources officer.

They replaced the PCA youth officers for 2010-2011, namely Richelle Mungwaath, Valyn San Nicolas, Maria Brel Camacho, Noelani Baulechong, and Lorielyn Baulechong.

Composed of about 50 members with ages ranging from 13 to 21, the PCA Youth Club organizes activities for all Palauan youths residing in the CNMI to promote, build, and maintain Palauan culture.

PCA Youth Club envisions the Palauan youth to be self-motivated learners, respected, valued, active, and independent members of the community, and knowledgeable and skilled individuals in the community.

Cabrera, 16, said this is his first time to serve as an officer of the organization. "I hope to bring all the Palauan youth together as one and make it a bigger group to show our pride as Palauans," said Cabrera.

According to him, one of the biggest challenges for the new officers is the lack of transportation that prevents officers and members from meeting regularly.

The Saipan Southern High School junior said they plan to address this setback by coming up with other means such as helping out those who do not have vehicles and through fund-raising activities.

Mungwaath, the 2010-2011 president, said she is very happy that the male members of the organization decided to step up to the plate and accept the responsibilities and challenges as officers.

"I'm very proud of them," she said. "I hope that they'll take this because it's their first time to make it much more effective and to have more Palauans come together not only to learn about culture but also be educated and learn to be adults and learn from each and everyone."

Bernice B. Ravell, PCA youth coordinator, said the annual election is normally held every September.

"Because of our busy schedule, we decided to hold it in time for the 17th Palau Independence Day," she said.

PCA, an organization of Palauans living in the CNMI, joined Palauans throughout the world in celebrating the 17th Palau Independence Day with the theme "Kelbael Keruul: Sustainable and Productive Economy."

Rufino Aguon, PCA president, said it is essential that all Palauans remember that their nation was under the trusteeship agreement with the United Nations before it became independent in 1994.

"It's important that we celebrate this annually so that the younger generations understand the sacrifices and hardship of our forefathers to attain this independence," Aguon told *Saipan Tribune*.

Aguon maintains that through PCA, they are able to instill this value given that most of Saturday's attendees are young members of the Palauan community in the CNMI.

"I think we've done a good job," said Aguon. "Even with the hard economic times, we're still able to pull through with the celebration and have our youth involved."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The 2011-2012 officers of the Palauan Community Association Youth Club pose for a photo after being recognized during the 17th Palau Independence Day celebration last Saturday. From left, youth coordinator Bernice B. Ravell; vice president Tyrone Ilemelong; treasurer Godiva Asanuma; PCA president Rufino Aguon; secretary Galelynn Martin; president Vicente "VJ" Cabrera; and human resources officer Mario Brel.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Palauan Community Association Youth Club smile for the camera after electing their new set of officers during the 17th Palau Independece Day celebration at the Laly 4 Chalan Kanoa Beach on Oct. 1.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 3, 2000

DPH warns against Tanapag land crabs

The Department of Public Health will issue an advisory this week warning people against consuming land crabs taken from Tanapag after preliminary test showed that eight land crabs from the cemetery were found contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl. While there was no significant sampling made in the testing conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 in May of this year, DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez believes that the people should be discouraged from eating land crabs until a more extensive evaluation has been conducted.

CPA exceeds debt payment requirement by 27 pct.

The level of revenues currently generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority from its marine division has started showing signs of improvement, empowering its ability to comply with the $33 million seaport bond indenture. After previously falling short to meeting the 125 percent debt coverage ratio requirement, CPA managed to exceed the required debt service coverage by injecting additional revenues from its seaport operation in August. A report prepared for the CPA Board of Directors disclosed the 125 percent required debt coverage ratio has been exceeded by 27 percent, with CPA posting a whooping 152 percent for the month of August 2000.

Oct. 3, 2001

'Crisis justifies increased lobby efforts'

Despite valiant efforts by the opposition, House leaders pulled off the passage of a resolution supporting the Governor if he decides to retain the services of the Washington D.C.-based lobbying group, at least until December this year. Voting 11-5-1, majority of House lawmakers supported House Resolution 12-179, expressing the lower chamber's support to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in securing the continued services of Greenberg Traurig as the CNMI's lobbyist at the US Congress "during this critical time." Those who opposed were Reps. Diego T. Benavente, Heinz S. Hofschneider, Jesus T. Attao, Estanislao T. Torres and Thomas B. Pangelinan.

Court: Bidder may get monetary relief

The Superior Court junked a motion filed by four government officials seeking to dismiss the case filed against them by a bidder to the Saipan prison project. The court's decision virtually ruled that the bidder—the joint venture of Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific, Inc.—may possibly get monetary relief from Public Works Secretary Juan B. Cepeda, Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan, Attorney General Herbert Soll and Assistant Attorney General Murphy Peterson. The complaint incorporated damage claims even if it did not indicate the amount prayed for.

Oct. 3, 2002

CPA's financial vigilance pressed

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is drawing near to implementing painful cuts in operational costs, unless the agency sees improvement in its level of revenue, which is tied with the rally of the local economy. CPA Board Financial Affairs Committee Chair Ray Cing, in a report submitted to the Board, said that the CPA should be extra careful about its financial situation, especially with the declining ports-related activities. Cing, in his committee report, said the ports authority "cannot afford to be extravagant and wasteful at this time." This, as the committee also presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2003 airport operations budget amounting to $11.3 million-$9.8 million for the total operating expenses and $1.5 million for debt service payment.

P&S denies CHC bidder's protest

The CNMI Procurement and Supply has denied the protest of a U.S.-based staffing agency in connection with its bid to supply the Commonwealth Health Center with nurses and laboratory personnel. In a decision released yesterday, P&S Director Herman S. Sablan, said the company, New Jersey-based Global Access Staffing Services, "is a local bidder" so it is not entitled to a seven-day deadline allowance given to offshore entities. "We have determined that Global Access Staffing Services (Saipan), Inc. (Global), is a local bidder, and as such, cannot simultaneously claim that it is also a bidder outside the CNMI for purposes of being allowed seven days additional working days for a receipt of its proposal beyond the due date set...Accordingly, we have denied your protest in its entirety," Sablan said.

135 nonresident CHC staff eligible for CW-1

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez disclosed Friday that all 135 nonresident workers at the Commonwealth Health Center have been found qualified for a CW-1 visa.

This was confirmed, he said, by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials with whom the department recently met with to discuss the matter.

Villagomez said the bulk of the nonresident workers at the hospital are nurses.

He said the contracts of a few of the 135 foreign hospital workers will not be renewed this new fiscal year.

"We're not renewing everybody and this is based on their performance evaluation—a process that is also being conducted for U.S. citizen workers in the hospital. From the 135, about 98 percent have passed the performance evaluation and we would soon be filing CW-1 for each of them," said Villagomez.

Last week, a memorandum was sent to all foreign workers to inform them about the new CW-1 requirements.

"We tell them exactly what our plans are and told them if they have dependents for CW-2 they have to start working with our human resource office and putting in their applications at the same time," he said. CW-2 visas are for the immediate families of CW-1 workers.

It was earlier disclosed that the filing for CW-1 status for all foreign workers will cost the department about $120,000, compared to H-IB, visa which may cost up to $585,000. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Woman who recruited 6 Chinese to work gets six-month jail term

The federal court on Friday sentenced to six months in prison a woman who recruited six persons from China to come to the CNMI with promises of jobs while pretending to be tourists.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona gave Li Hua credit for the four months she has already served in jail, leaving Hua with two more months to go in prison.

Hua pleaded guilty to a count of foreign labor contracting fraud conspiracy as part of a plea bargain.

After serving her sentence, she will be turned over to immigration authorities for removal from the CNMI. If no removal or deportation proceedings is conducted, Hua will be required to report to the U.S. Probation Office.

Manglona believes that incarceration is warranted in this case to send a message about the need to comply with immigration laws and to deter others. She hopes the message will reach China and instructed Hua to inform her friends, family, and other people in China about immigration law in the CNMI.

Hua's counsel, Bruce Berline, told the media after the hearing that they are satisfied with the sentence. Berline had recommended a sentence of time served (four months) followed by three years of supervised release contingent upon deportation from the CNMI, either voluntarily or involuntarily.

Berline in the sentencing memorandum said Hua was misinformed about job opportunities and immigration status available here on Saipan. He said there is an ongoing misinformation campaign in China about immigration here in the CNMI.

The lawyer said Hua has no prior criminal history and must return to China to care for her 3-year-old daughter and ailing elderly parents.

Hua's co-defendant, Hongliang Cheng, had also pleaded guilty to the same offense.

Hua was tagged by investigators as the one who recruited the six persons in China, while Cheng was responsible for bringing the six to Saipan.

The six persons were arrested and had all pleaded guilty to improper entry. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-048

Geothermal Energy Development on Saipan, CNMI
ADDENDUM NO. 1

Dated: September 2, 2011

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments to CUC-RFP-11-048, Geothermal Energy Development, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marina Islands:

- The initial Scope-of-Work and Proposal Solicitation Notice for CUC-RFP-11-048 has been amended. All registered prospective Offerors will be provided with a complete copy of the amended Scope-of-Work & Proposal Solicitation Notice;
- The deadline for submission of proposals has been extended from September 6, 2011 to November 15, 2011;
- The deadline for submission of inquiries has been extended to November 1, 2011.

Stage 1, Geothermal Gradient Project

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Service will be e-mailed to all interested Offeror, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **September 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original, Six (6) copies, and one (1) digitized version (PDF) must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-048 "Saipan Geothermal Development Project" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **November 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **November 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Dr. James Quick, CNMI Energy Advisor and Consultant via email address jquick@smu.edu. ; Mr. Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director -Power via email address wallon59@yahoo.com and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications of prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

CNMI Water Task Force
ITB 11-GOV- 141

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the procurement of the supply and delivery of various materials for use in the optimization of the water wellheads on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bidders must bid on all items. A contract will be awarded to one supplier for all bid items

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **September 19, 2011**.

Any questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, CNMI Water Task Force at (670) 664-2285, or via facsimile at (670) 664-2279 before **October 3, 2011.**

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Supply of Wellhead Materials", ITB11-GOV- 141.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, October 18, 2011**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days of receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, October 18, 2011** and must be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service no later than **October 18, 2011** AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than **October 27, 2011**.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **2:00 p.m., local time, October 28, 2011**. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **2:00 p.m., local time, October 19, 2011.**

Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposal and to waive any imperfection in a proposal in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2011-CDA-06-RFP

LOAN UNDERWRITER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is soliciting competitive proposals from qualified firms, companies, agencies and/or persons to provide the services of a loan underwriter experienced in all aspects of the underwriting process, to provide independent contractual services for the CDA in the implementation of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Loan Guaranty and Loan Participation Programs. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-235).

The CDA on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has applied for State Small Business Credit Initiative funds in the amount of $13,168,350 for the Loan Participation and Loan Guaranty Programs. Programs are subject to CDA and lender criteria as well as SSBCI guidelines.

The purpose of the programs is to provide businesses with high growth and job creation potential that will diversify and strengthen the local economy. It encourages expansion of existing and emerging new industries to expand economic opportunity to all in the community.

The Program targets the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CDA encourages the leveraging of new private investment in the form of fixed asset and working capital investment. The Program provides loan guaranty and participation of up to $5 million to businesses at interest rates and loan maturities that encourage business development and facilitate reinvestment while providing for the recapitalization and growth of fund. The program perpetuates a positive and proactive business climate that encourages the retention and expansion of existing businesses and helps to attract desirable new businesses. The Program objective is to leverage the SSBCI funding ten times (10X) with private financing.

The guidelines and specifications for this RFP may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Holidays, or from the Office of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base.

Respectfully

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 234

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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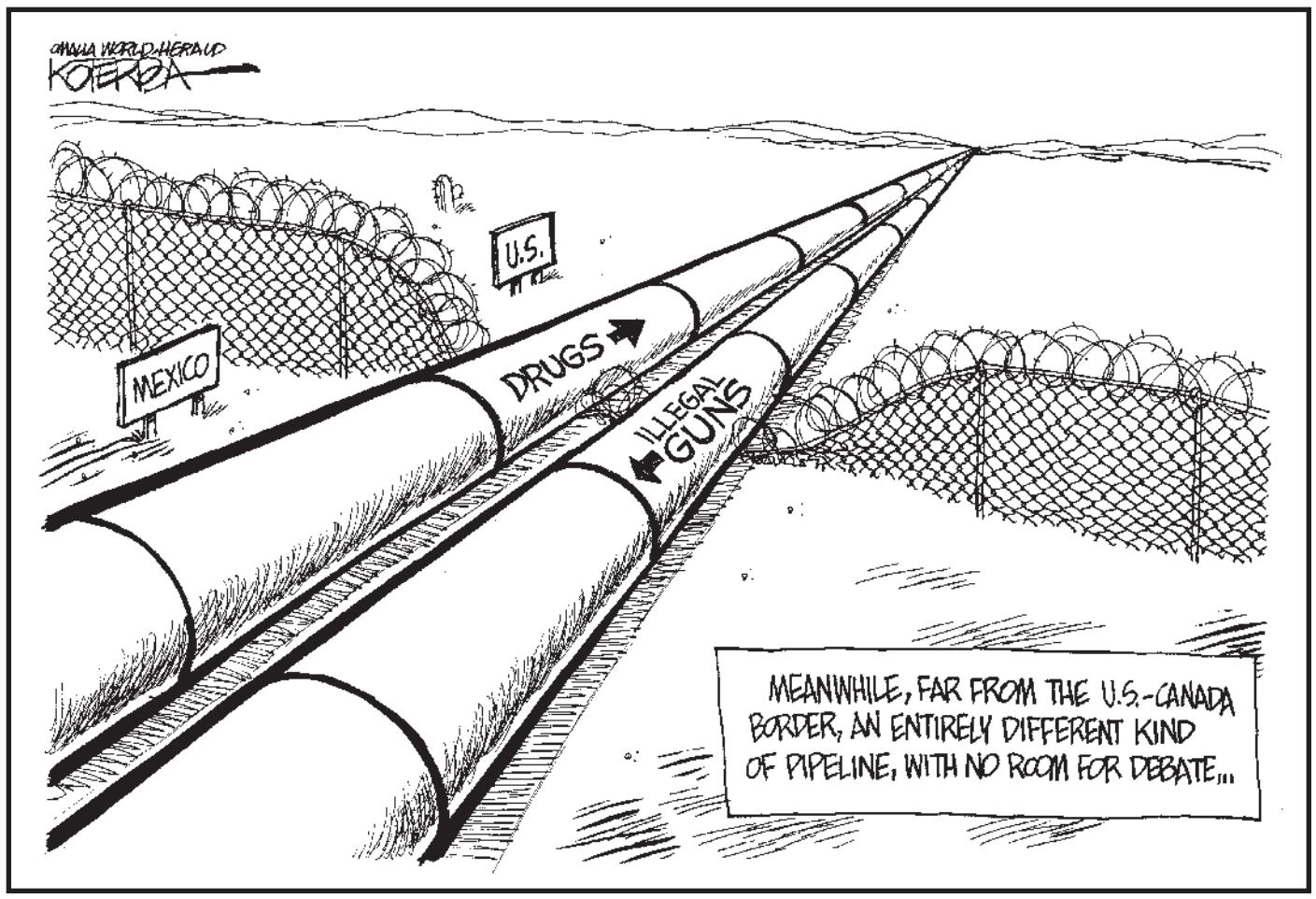


TIANGONG One

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

October 1-7 is a seven-day holiday in China. The Lunar New Year fest used to be the second of two major family gatherings across the nation, but the transport contradiction that occurs when China is on the move led to the shortening of New Year into four days, and the *Qingming,* the "heart-goes-on" days for ancestors, into three.

This year's 10.01 is the 62nd birthday of the People's Republic of China, PRC. Taiwan across the channel marks 10.10 that launched the Republic of China, ROC, after the 1911 Xinhai revolution. The famed Sun Yat Sen, *Sun Zhong Shan* to Renmin, was the first President, respected by both the Kuomintang nationalists of Chiang Kai-shek and the Gongchandang comrades of Mao Zedong.

Tiangong One, China's launch of a sky lab (*tian gong* translate into "sky dwelling" but media insist on using European mythological metaphors and translate it as "heavenly palace" with allusions to Olympian theological qualities) ushered this year's national week. Applying to join the International Space Station, China's membership was repeatedly vetoed by the U.S. so the Tiangong charts a separate course while it humbly follows the trails blazed by pioneering Russians and Americans.

Early this year, China's President Wen Jiabao announced the nation's intent to put a man on the moon by 2030. President Obama's administration realigned NASA's program toward a Mars destination. It has had a lukewarm reception given the current political malaise, the endless wrangling over resource allocation that is grounded on the phantom wealth of the financial market that has heretofore been pegged on the U$ dollar.

There is a universal acknowledgement among space program officials that their efforts are devoid of political coloration and the technical advantage of one is the technological advance of all.

Though China keeps a "low-profile" foreign policy, its economic dynamism keeps it in the limelight so the sky lab launching had all members of the Politburo in attendance either at the launch site on the Gobi desert, or in the Beijing mission control center. Neighbor India's space program *sans* the fanfare is focused on satellite commercial needs, China keeps a side glance on "prestige" in the same way it did with the Beijing Olympics and the Guangzhou Asian Games.

2012 marks the centennial of the Republic and though the nationalists locked up the 10.10 (Ten of October) image, mainland China ushers the event with its own aggressive promotions of the Xinhua uprising of 1911 that resulted in the collapse of the Qing Dynasty and the abdication of the Manchu throne.

China's official account of the 62-year-old 1PRC divides into two, with Chairman Mao constituting the first half, and Deng Xiaoping initiating the second half.

Mao's first half includes the elated and triumphant early years that saw polished stars out of the Korean peninsula, baptized by fire in the ambitious but ill-fated "5-year leap forward," followed by the disastrous Cultural Revolution of the Gang of Four.

Zhou Enlai and Kissinger's *realpolitick* managed to establish China-U.S. relations, which transitioned the ill-fated Tiananmen uprising to Deng Xiaoping's incursion into regulated free trade, its Singapore partnership in Suzhou and Guangzhou, the invitation for Sino-owned investments from around the world, and finally, opening to free market forces.

Tiananmen Square in Beijing, site of the stillborn "democratic"

See TIANGONG on Next Page

What are our reasons for working?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Work occupies 100,000 hours or about 40 percent of our lives, including commuting and thinking about it outside office hours. It seems reasonable, therefore, that we should do all we can to choose work that will provide satisfaction and joy in our lives.

Let's discuss some reasons why we work and why some of us do not want to. Fundamentally speaking, have we ever considered why we work? Each of us has a different reason.

Many of us just accept work as the thing to do and rarely realize that it is one of the most important acts that we do daily in our life. Work is the place where we spend some of our most creative and enjoyable time. Unfortunately for some of us, work is also the place where we most dread going. Do we ever wonder why after X number of years of doing work we hate, we become burned out, retire and fade into oblivion. The result: A lifetime of unhappiness!

When we say we work "because we have to," it is because we see it as an unavoidable part of life. When we feel like that, we feel unmotivated at our jobs, bitter toward others, resentful at home, and live the same day over and over again for our entire working lives. How sad and depressing life is for us who feel and live like this.

Some of us work to provide for others. This can be a big motivator, especially in single income families. There is nothing quite like knowing that we are the sole link between our family and their ability to survive in this world. Many times we married couples feel we have an obligation to work for our spouse. With this motive we daily feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. Life takes on a new dimensional meaning.

Some of us work because we love what we do. This is the crowd that practices the "do what you love and the money will come" philosophy. We are passionate about our vocation, and can get lost in our career's passion.

Some of us work primarily out of fear. We work because we are scared of the alternative of not having a job we like, or any job at all. Unfortunately, today with a strong recession and a high unemployment rate, this type of feeling spreads quickly through the working ranks.

Some of us work to fund our true passions. While our primary income may not be from a career building position or a job we particularly like, we use the money earned to fund a hobby, a passion, or do a side business that we are crazy about. This can be a win-win situation for all involved.

Some of us work simply for the money. We love the idea of money, and the idea of making a lot of it even more. This group of workers can quickly forget its true motivation, as its only aspiration turns into maximizing and consistently increasing its income. We become greedy, and lack the perspective to see when enough becomes enough.

Some of us work to leave a legacy or for recognition and greatness. We see our work as a critical part of something we are building or a part of. Many times we may be volunteers or non-profit workers, trying to make a difference and leave the world a better place.

Still some of us work primarily to share. We often contribute large percentages of our income to charity and causes. We feel that the money we make transcends our immediate needs, and are very passionate about those we financially support.

There are those of us who work out of boredom. We are retirees who may have experienced the lack of stimulation that abrupt retirement brings, and seek to return to work simply to keep ourselves occupied with something.

Some of don't know why we work. I have a feeling that this is a large percentage of the population. We work day after day without giving a second thought as to what we are doing. We are a little bit like the group that works because "we have to," but never really sit down to give the question a second thought.

Then there are some of us who don't want to work. The reasons can be that we want to feel free to come and go as we wish. We refuse to become domesticated. We apply for food stamps and free medical treatments and too often get them successfully. Something happens to us. We begin to feel that we can scam the system even though we know that we are fast becoming beggars. We lose the feeling of shame and become accustomed to freebies.

As adults we all get to make choices and live with the consequences. Some of us decide not to work and then try to escape the consequences by looking to others for support. We do this by begging for money at every opportune moment, applying for government welfare programs, or just living off the generosity of others.

When people don't work for any reason, they are not contributing to society. This puts a burden on responsible working adults who end up paying for them in the long run. These people are parasites.

Don't get me wrong. I believe in being charitable—in fact, we all have a responsibility to help others in need. It feels good to help a family that is really struggling or someone with health issues, or the elderly. Sometimes people just end up in difficult circumstances and need help. I completely understand this and participate in giving in those situations.

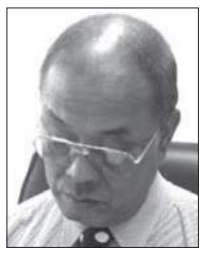
I believe that we are actually doing harm by helping those who choose not to work. We are enabling them, the same way we are enabling an alcoholic or a drug user. I'm not referring to homeless people, those who are disabled, the elderly, or special needs people.

I'm talking about normal people who are just plain lazy and just don't want to work. These are able-bodied people who want others to pay their way and are very good at figuring out ways to work the

See REASONS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gi halom hoyun dibi



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Guaha hagas ta letke na man-sañgan: "Yangin gaige hau gi halom hoyu, na para guiadogmu 'sino un' hafot maisa hau". Estague' na estau 'nai man-gaige hit pagu. Ala kuenta, hita mismu gumuadog madogta pot mas ke trenta años na tiempu.

Finenina ta guadog sinparat esta'i fondu i programan man-ritirau. Todu klasen piku, pala, kama', fusiños, kuha yan otru siha traste man-guadog tana' fan atatiye lau esta ha' taduñg mampos i madogta. De hemunos kau ma'pe ya u fan disgrasiau i los prohimus. Guadog!

Sige pagu i atrasau na konsehu siha na debi mohon tana' para guinadogta 'nai sisiña ha' ta hagu' huyuñg i kanton hoyu. Dididi' atrasau sa' ta tampe hit esta. Tinaka' tiempu estake siña ta lagnos hit ginen ennau na diskuidu. Enfin, makat na kondision sa' tat seguru na siña ta lagnos hit ginen ennau na taduñg hoyu.

■■■

I mas man-famosu na ekonomista sige ma-abisa i mas man-atbansau na nasion deste Uropa, Amerika yan Asia haf' mauleg na pasu iu fam machogue pot no u basnag ekonomian niha. Era, i abisu pot no u megaiña gaston operasion gobietnu ke hafa humahalom gi kaha. Todu pagu pumadedese dañkulu na maribahan nina' halom kontribusion gi kahan gobietnun niha. Pues, dañkulu mampos i kuenta ke hafa humahalom.

Amerika megai mañaunau gi todu klasen programan benefisiu ginen i federat pot para u tohnen ñaihon chinatsagan niha. Kontodo i man-machochochu' ni man-ma-utot oran niha bumenefifisia programan food stamps. Fuera de dibi, fuetsau debi u fan man-apase kontribusion tax, atkilon guma, sasyan, yan otru siha obligasion familia. Megai lokue' umabandona gima' niha sa' kanaha' tumai bali i apas yan poduñg balin propiadat na tiempu.

■■■

Planun Adelantu

I hanom tasi siña hana' ma'ya i boti. Siña lokue ha fondu. 'An afnu', ha hatsa hulu' gi supin tasi. 'An ma'te ha pega gi fondu. Parehu yan finapos tautau hagu mismu siña muna' ma'ya' 'sino fumondu botimu.

Memegaiña ti kumomple guinifen niha lau enfin manae' animu ya man-mattu guihe na eskalera 'nai tufuñgon hafa kontribusion niha. Enfin, todu u fan pinalalae' ni parehu magta' lañgat gi mattiñgan de hemunos ke hafa rayamu pat galun gi apaga'mu. Fan atan ya un' gaiase' ni prohimumu sa' gai direchu lokue humañgoñg taimanu hau mismu.

Gi uttimu, siempre todus u fañgarera halom gi un' taifondu na liyañg ni mafatinas deste antes de tiempon antigu. Tat sin' riku 'sino poble. Parehu galun gi menan i Saina. Un' mafañagu, la'la' yan matai. Ya maseha hafa guahamu, ni unu siña un' kilili 'nai mattu oran madisponimu. Estague i petmanente na potsun lina'la ni ti siña ta tulaika 'sino diroga.

■■■

Direchon Dueñu

Guaha kausan 'nai hu lie' i kotte ha ta'lun dumispone disposision matai na dueñon tanu. Un' ratu ha' señor sa' sage' i para un' ta'lun dumispone i esta ha manifesta i duenun tanu kumu i "uttimum na dinsehaña yan minalago'ña".

Hayegue' munae' i kotte atoridat para u atrebigue' tuma'lon dumispone i esta madispacha na dinisehan i dueñu? Kau i jues guennau na kausa malag i simienteyu ya kumonfirensia yan i dueñun tanu' na para u plachae' i uttimu na dinseha yan minalgu' i dueñu?

■■■

Ha bogbug un' lahen mame munton siboyas hagu ya ha pega gi halom dineblan papet. Ha faisenyu' kau malaguyu' mamahan. I cheluña, ha chule' binegbogña ya ha pega gi karetahu dispues ilegña, "Guaha Uncle John piniloghu gi sasyanmu ya mauleg unna' tunog 'an mattu hau giya hamyu". I unu pitbetsu, i otru antau ya oppan i diffirensia gi haye ume'ekuñgog finu' sainaña.

■■■

Antes na tiempu, i antigu na peskadot ha papastu i lagua gi halom achu' rubentasion. Estake mauleg minidoñgña 'nai makusecha. Gi un' maipe na taloane, gatdun i ga'ga' sa' finalulon ni taliña. Malolofan un' patgon ya ha sotta 'sino trinaba.

Un' dia pumepeska i patgon ya rinimpua botiña ni loka' lañgat. Sige munañgu halom gi tanu ha espipiha satbasioña. Linie' ni lagua ya binatsala lahom estake safu gi rubentasion. Era i muna' libregue' i mismu lagua ni hana' libre antes. Moralidat i estoria?

REASONS

From Page 10

system. If these people don't want to work, they should have to live the consequences. Hunger can be a great motivator.

I recall a trip to Mexico several years ago. Our tour guide turned to me and said: "I envy you Americans. You have food stamps and other welfare programs where you can get free food and other benefits. But here in Mexico, we either work or we don't eat!"

It is saddening to see how few of the local citizens are preparing to train themselves to enter the labor market with a skill or profession. Yet thousands of them line up monthly for food stamps with no thought of becoming workers. Others keep complaining they cannot find a job and yet refuse to learn a skill. Have they no shame, no pride? Where does this lead us to as a nation in our attempt to rebuild our economy when we, who are able- bodied citizens, refuse to work?

Frankly speaking, the reason I continue to work this late in life is that the activity considered work by many others is a joy for being alive to me. It gives me a reason for awakening and facing an otherwise dreary and boring life. I feel I have meaning in my life and a reason for living.

Hopefully after reading through the above we will begin to question why we work. When we come to realize the reason, our life will take on a new meaning. After all, what is the purpose of any activity we perform? Isn't to enrich our lives and bring more joy to us and to the people we love? Have a beautiful day and smile! It's contagious.

TIANGONG

From Page 10

protests of 1989, is often translated as the "heavenly portal to the Forbidden City," a euphemism for our penchant to romanticize the mysteries of the Oriental veil. Looked at from the ground, *tiananmen* means the "safe door to wide open spaces."

When Apollo 8 in 1968 sent back photos of the Blue Planet including what is now known as the Earthrise image, America discovered its inner space and learned the tunes of the Age of Aquarius. Some regard the current turmoil in the American soul as tragic. We see it differently, more as a consequence of having to face the reality of inner spaces, wart, hoof and all, a sign of maturity rather than doom.

One-dimensional China, preoccupied with its financial standing and the broadening of its domestic consumer base, might actually be propelled by its Tiangong One to the awe and wonder of its inner space, long ago nurtured by the dynamism of the *taiji* that sees the diversity and ambiguity of life at the pivot point of a swirling center, and the *feng shui* that organizes space into varied meanings of fate and destiny.

China in crisis is a dreaded metaphor but is also illuminating, for the ideogram of "crisis" combines the characters of "despair" and "opportunity," so the *yin-yang* of the Yangtze flood devastates life simultaneously as it brings rich nutrients to nurture new growth.

With the Tiangong missions, China may rediscover its soul, as we are confident the heirs of Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR and MLK Jr. will not lose theirs in the turmoil of the age's spirit unraveling. The door to outer space may just be the same door to the inner one!

Letters to the Editor

Confusion at CUC

The story titled "CUC reclassifies Rota job vacancy announcements" is confusing and is triggering some thoughts among professionals in public personnel management circles that if the article says what it seems to be saying, then someone in CUC at the driver's seat who is responsible for this matter misses all principles in human resources management dealing with recruitment and position classification actions.

I could sympathize with the recruitment difficulty of the subject position that CUC is having trouble with, but somehow the processes being implemented defies logical and systematic search for solutions to the issue being undertaken. Reclassifying a job vacancy announcement may have been construed as changing the job specification of the subject position under consideration. The absence of a complete job analysis to substantiate the justification for a change in the job specification would render the amendment to a job specification voidable because there exists no good reason and rationale to effectuate such changes in the position's established and authorized definition for all legal purposes.

There may be a desire to hastily revise the position's qualification standard, setting it to the bare minimum for the convenience of recruiting a person to fill the vacant job, but without such complete job analysis one would question what procedures CUC implements with this type of personnel action, including the sound science and common best practices in recruitment and position classification. Each position that CUC utilizes has its own distinct job content that would clearly define the job's know-how, problem solving, and accountability. When the minimum qualification standard is poorly set and structured and is not commensurate with the job contents of the subject position, something is terribly wrong and out of order. As a ratepayer of CUC, I am concerned about this because the resulting mistake of setting the minimum qualification standard for this position as low as a high school diploma or GED equivalent doesn't play well with logic and justified rationale. But this is not the more critical issue. You would have to consider the snowball effect this would have on authorized positions that CUC utilizes at present and in the future. Let the competent professional in CUC in charge of this matter prepare CUC in sustaining its action dealing with equal protection of the law for present and future employees that may be entitled to the same compensation level of $45,000-$65,000 annual salary.

Recruitment difficulty issues have specific human resources management approaches. CUC has not exhausted every best practices available that it could undertake to meet the federal stipulated order. Without the required job analysis and study to derive at revising the job specification of the Water Services Manager position, CUC is opening a can of worms and it is inviting current employees similarly situated to ask for the same compensation level and other form of compensation under the law. If the changes being undertaken is not justified, then the responsible professional in CUC should offer a satisfying and competent explanation. Nothing less and nothing more.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Regarding MVA's website

I'll make this short and sweet. The MVA website is a disgrace, and if MVA were a real business, run by real business people who understand marketing and management, they wouldn't have their jobs. And this shouldn't surprise anyone, it's been this way for a long time, and will unlikely change. On two occasions, I have run across the CNMI tourism booth at dive and travel trade shows, and in both cases the booths were empty. That's right, nobody was there and thousands of people were walking around looking for their next expensive sunburn and fantasy trip. The CNMI troupe was a no-show. They managed a free overseas trip, and then went shopping.

So how could you expect the MVA website, the single most internationally visible and powerful marketing tool your economy has, to be any more creative, and well designed, than the commitment of lazy government workers who are eating at the food court at the dive trade show while the CNMI booth is vacant and poorly designed. A zebra doesn't change its stripes. Don't expect any changes on the CNMI website any time soon, they wouldn't know how to do it, or even what works.

Chris West
Los Angeles, CA

Investing in students

Hafa Adai! I appreciate the honorable chairperson of SHEFA, Mr. Mafnas, for his diligence and efficacy in discussing my concerns with the SHEFA Scholarship program. I am not all about the monetary gains from this program. In fact, I am more for investing in well-deserving and prospective student(s) who consistently abide by the SHEFA regulations and want to return or stay in our beautiful islands of Northern Marianas Islands, using their education and lifelong learning experiences. With that being said, the return on investments is worth SHEFA investing in these prospective student(s). I advocate for myself and other students who are experiencing or may be experiencing this issue of being denied a scholarship because of policies and ramifications that are not transparent to the student(s). I hope the SHEFA Scholarship stakeholders will come to a reasonable consensus for the holistic revamp of the program.

Darlyn Salas Babauta
San Vicente, Saipan
Honolulu, Hawaii

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

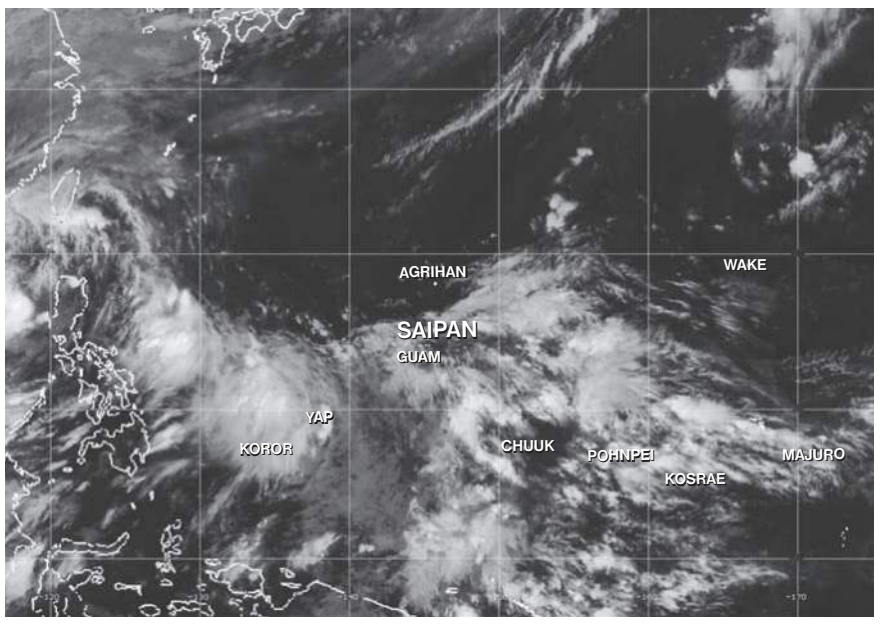
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲83	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64	▼58
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
London	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲72	▼41
Miami	Showers	▲85	▼74
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼53
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼55
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼60
Rome	Sunny	▲83	▼59
Salem	Showers	▲59	▼52
San Francisco	Showers	▲57	▼56
Seoul	Cloudy	▲69	▼48
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲68	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 14N130E through a developing circulation centered northwest of Yap near 11N136E to end at EQ145E. Numerous to scattered showers and isolated to scattered thunderstorms are occurring south of the monsoon trough over Koror and around Yap between 5N and 10N from 130E to 139E. Convergent winds east and north of the monsoon trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Yap within 150 miles of a line from 14N137E to 6N144E. Trade-wind convergence is coupling with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Guam and over Chuuk and Pohnpei within 300 miles of a line from 13N146E to 5N158E and east of Majuro east of 172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
1:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
1:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:42 AM	11:16 PM
Tuesday	12:36 PM	
Wednesday	1:24 PM	12:13 AM
Thursday	2:09 PM	1:07 AM
Friday	2:49 PM	1:59 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
5K382	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	3, 4, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
5K168	9:45am	12:55pm	1, 5
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	8:10am	9:00am	1, 5
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	3, 4, 7
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
5K169	2:20pm	9:25pm	1, 5
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

CNMI ALIGNS WITH 48 STATES, VIRGIN ISLANDS

PSS adopts common core state standards for students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the CNMI Public School System has adopted the common core state standards that will better prepare CNMI students for a globally competitive world, aligning PSS with 48 other states of the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The common core state standards initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. These standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare children for college and the workforce.

The standards are informed by the highest, most effective models from states across the country and countries around the world, and provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn. Consistent standards will provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the Board of Education, in line with this initiative, has adopted two common core state standards in the areas of language arts and math.

"We're excited because this is an indication of CNMI aligning itself with the rest of the nation in providing quality education to students so they will fit right in because they have same curriculum and benchmarks," she said.

By adopting the core state standard for math, for example, will greatly help Commonwealth graduates compete with high school graduates in other states. PSS, Sablan said, is now preparing all the necessary planning and training for the smooth implementation of the standard next school year, 2012-2013.

The high school common core state standard for math calls on students to practice applying mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges. They prepare students to think and reason mathematically. These standards set a rigorous definition of college and career readiness, by helping students develop a depth of understanding and ability to apply mathematics to novel situations, as college students and employees regularly do.

These standards also emphasize mathematical modeling, the use of mathematics and statistics to analyze empirical situations, understand them better, and improve decisions. For example, the draft standards state that, "Modeling links classroom mathematics and statistics to everyday life, work, and decision-making. It is the process of choosing and using appropriate mathematics and statistics to analyze empirical situations, to understand them better, and to improve decisions. Quantities and their relationships in physical, economic, public policy, social and everyday situations can be modeled using mathematical and statistical methods. When making mathematical models, technology is valuable for varying assumptions, exploring consequences, and comparing predictions with data."

Sablan said that the CNMI is only the second territory to adopt the state standards next to Virgin Islands. Most states in the U.S. are also implementing the standards beginning this school year.

Saipan Tribune learned that the common core state standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses, and in workforce training programs. The standards are aligned with college and work expectations; are clear, understandable and consistent; include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills; build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards; are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in the global economy and society; and are evidence-based.

GPD gets $1.2M for police officer recruitment and retention

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded the Guam Police Department $1,278,072 in federal financial assistance. The grant was awarded through the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program and will provide funding for three years to enable GPD to recruit and retain 12 law enforcement officers.

Bordallo

The COPS Hiring Program provides funding to state and local law enforcement agencies to hire, preserve, and/or rehire career law enforcement officers in an effort to create and preserve jobs and increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. This grant will cover the full salary and benefits packages for highly trained public sector positions. The jobs created, preserved, or refilled will advance community policing at the local level, and contribute greatly to the quality of life of the citizens in each community.

"These federal funds will help GPD recruit and retain law enforcement officers to enhance police presence in our community," said Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo. "The grant reaffirms President Obama's commitment to creating jobs and improving public safety throughout the country. I look forward to these funds supporting GPD and its mission of keeping our island safe."

"We welcome any funding that will keep our community and families safer," said and Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo. ***(PR)***

HHS awards $70,000 to Sanctuary, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced Friday that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded $70,000 in federal financial assistance to Sanctuary Inc. This basic center grant will go toward improving services offered at Sanctuary's COED Emergency Shelter.

The COED Emergency Shelter was first established in 1971 to provide temporary relief to troubled young adults in Guam. The program is entirely voluntary, and youth who stay in the shelter are provided with transportation to school, work, and/or other activities. The shelter also provides 24-hour intervention services, counseling, outreach, and education and prevention programs.

"Sanctuary's Emergency Shelter has provided critical support to assist many families in Guam resolve conflicts in the home," said Bordallo. "This Federal grant will help improve facilities at the shelter and services provided to troubled youth seeking help. I commend Sanctuary for their work in securing this grant." ***(PR)***

KUKUNITUS PROGRAM CONCLUDES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Public Library successfully concludes its "Kukunitus" program with gifts from the 13th Tinian Municipal Council represented by its staff and Councilman Joseph Cruz. The Tinian Public Library extend its sincere appreciation to Tinian Mayor's Office, Jasmeen Borja, Marveluz, parents of participants, volunteers Balbina M. Perez and Florine M. Hofschneider, certified Early Childhood teacher Maria Castro, the library staff, WIA SYETP participants, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Bank of Guam, Huang Shun Store, and the U.S. Postal Service.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to parents of SSHS students

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, mid-term 1 progress is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents and legal guardian visit. All students will be released at 1:05pm. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

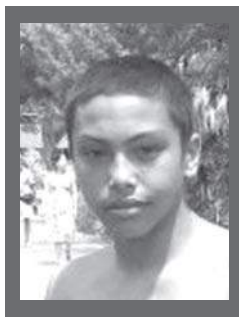
- Oct. 5 and 7, from 1pm to 11:59pm
- Oct. 8, from 7am to 2pm

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Oct. 4-5, from 8:30amm to 4:30pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(USN)***



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

You might as well write my name on a cloud. Happy birthday greetings go out to Barnaby Quitugua Lizama II, who celebrates his birthday in Kapolei, Hawaii. We love you very much son and we wish you the very best. Love always, Mom, Dad, AJ, E'Ann, Nina Elang, The Quitugua-Lizama and Pangelinan-Castro-Jones families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

US incomes fall for first time in nearly two years

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans earned less in August than in July, the first decline in nearly two years. With less income, consumers could cut back on spending and weaken an already-fragile economy.

Their lower pay explains why consumers increased spending at a slower pace in August. And most of the increase went to pay higher prices for food and gas. When adjusted for inflation, spending was flat.

Many people tapped their savings to cover the steeper costs. The savings rate fell to its lowest level since December 2009.

The decline in income offered "more evidence that households are in quite a bind," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Consumer spending rose 0.2 percent in August, after growing 0.7 percent in July, the Commerce Department said Friday. Incomes fell 0.1 percent, which was the first decline since October 2009.

AP

Unidentified shoppers unload their shopping cart at a Pembroke Pines, Fla. Costco store Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011.

The data also contributed to a rough day of Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average tumbled to close 240 points down. Broader indexes also fell.

When people have less income, they spend less and that slows growth. Consumers spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

The economy grew just 0.9 percent in the first half of the year, the worst six-month stretch since the recession officially ended more than two years ago.

Most economists have been predicting the second half of the year will be slightly better, in part because gas prices have come down since peaking this spring.

Dales estimates 2.5 percent growth in the July-September quarter and 1.5 percent in the final three months of the year. Those estimates take into account the weaker income figures.

SEC report cites flaws at credit rating agencies

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. securities regulators say their first annual review of the nation's credit rating agencies finds the companies aren't doing enough to protect their own financial integrity.

The Securities and Exchange Commission report released Friday was mandated by the sweeping financial industry reforms passed last year.

Regulators examined 10 credit rating agencies, including the three largest: Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch.

The report didn't specifically identify which of the credit rating agencies suffered the most troubling weaknesses.

But it chastised the 10 agencies for a series of problems, including inadequate controls over employee conflicts of interest. Regulators also found the companies sometimes didn't even follow their own procedures.

Some examples cited in the report:

■ The agencies had inadequate policies to prevent conflicts that arose when analysts and agency employees own stock in companies they rated.

■ Two of the three big agencies didn't have specific policies to prevent such conflicts when a company they rated held a substantial stake in their agency.

■ One of the bigger agencies failed to follow its own formulas for rating some asset-backed securities.

■ One of the smaller agencies delayed informing investors about changes in its formulas for rating some asset-backed securities.

The three big agencies have been blamed for helping fuel the 2008 financial crisis by giving high ratings to risky mortgage securities, a type of asset-backed security. Those investments later soured when the housing market went bust.

S&P recently reported that the SEC is considering taking civil action against it for its rating of a 2007 mortgage debt offering. Such action could be just the first shot in a legal assault against the major credit rating agencies.

The SEC staff conducted its examination from December 2009 through August 2010. The SEC hasn't determined if any of the findings represent a significant breach of regulations, but the report left that possibility open for future action.

Health care law looms over new High Court term

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nine justices of the Supreme Court, who serve without seeking election, soon will have to decide whether to insert themselves into the center of the presidential campaign next year.

The high court begins its new term Monday, and President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, which affects almost everyone in the country, is squarely in its sights.

The Obama administration's request last week that the justices resolve whether the health care law is constitutional makes it more likely than not that they will deliver their verdict by June 2012, just as Obama and his Republican opponent charge toward the fall campaign.

Already, GOP presidential contenders use virtually every debate and speech to assail Obama's major domestic accomplishment, which aims to extend health insurance to more than 30 million people now without coverage.

If as now expected the justices agree to review the law's constitutionality, those deliberations would certainly define the court's coming term. Their decision could rank as the court's most significant since the December 2000 ruling that effectively sealed George W. Bush's election as president.

Health care is only one of several issues that the court could hear that would make for a "fantastic Supreme Court term," said former acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal, now in private practice at the Hogan Lovells law firm.

Other high-profile cases on the horizon concern immigration and affirmative action, hot-button issues at any time and only more so in an election year.

Less likely, though still with a chance to make it to the court this year are cases involving gay marriage and the landmark Voting Rights Act that some Southern states argue has outlived its usefulness.

Decisions about whether to even to consider health care, affirmative action and immigration are a month off or more.

Nation

Clinton says that Obama faces the same debate from 1992 bid

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the start of his presidential campaign, Bill Clinton on Saturday offered a vigorous defense of President Barack Obama against what he called the same anti-government stances he faced during his campaign and two terms in office.

Clinton

The former president told a crowd of about 5,000 people outside the Old State House Museum in downtown Little Rock, the same spot where he announced his White House bid in 1991, that Obama faces a different set of challenges but is battling the same questions about the role of government in growing the economy.

"Underlying those challenges is the same old debate about whether government is the problem or whether we need smart government and a changing economy working together to create the opportunities of tomorrow," Clinton told the crowd, which was flooded with old campaign signs for him or his wife, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who lost to Obama in 2008's Democratic nominating contest.

The speech was the centerpiece of a weekend commemorating Clinton's presidential announcement, but it also offered plenty of parallels between his presidency and Obama's, including opposition on multiple fronts from Republicans.

Hairy, crazy ants invade from Texas to Miss.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—It sounds like a horror movie: Biting ants invade by the millions. A camper's metal walls bulge from the pressure of ants nesting behind them. A circle of poison stops them for only a day, and then a fresh horde shows up, bringing babies. Stand in the yard, and in seconds ants cover your shoes.

It's an extreme example of what can happen when the ants—which also can disable huge industrial plants—go unchecked. Controlling them can cost thousands of dollars. But the story is real, told by someone who's been studying ants for a decade.

"Months later, I could close my eyes and see them moving," said Joe MacGown, who curates the ant, mosquito and scarab collections at the Mississippi State Entomological Museum at Mississippi State University.

He's been back to check on the hairy crazy ants. They're still around. The occupant isn't.

The flea-sized critters are called crazy because each forager scrambles randomly at a speed that your average picnic ant, marching one by one, reaches only in video fast-forward. They're called hairy because of fuzz that, to the naked eye, makes their abdomens look less glossy than those of their slower, bigger cousins.

AP

In this photo provided by Mississippi State Entomological Museum, a worker Nylanderia pubens (ant) specimen is seen in Starkville, Miss., Friday, Nov. 6, 2009.

And they're on the move in Florida, Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana. In Texas, they've invaded homes and industrial complexes, urban areas and rural areas. They travel in cargo containers, hay bales, potted plants, motorcycles and moving vans. They overwhelm beehives—one Texas beekeeper was losing 100 a year in 2009. They short out industrial equipment.

If one gets electrocuted, its death releases a chemical cue to attack a threat to the colony, said Roger Gold, an entomology professor at Texas A&M.

"The other ants rush in. Before long, you have a ball of ants," he said.

A computer system controlling pipeline valves shorted out twice in about 35 days, but monthly treatments there now keep the bugs at bay, said exterminator Tom Rasberry, who found the first Texas specimens of the species in the Houston area in 2002.

"We're kind of going for overkill on that particular site because so much is at stake," he said. "If that shuts down, they could literally shut down an entire chemical plant that costs millions of dollars."

And, compared to other ants, these need overkill. For instance, Gold said, if 100,000 are killed by pesticides, millions more will follow.

ACROSS THE NATION

Obama: Commander in chief must support gay troops

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a sharp rebuke of his Republican rivals, President Barack Obama said anyone who wants to be commander in chief must support the entire U.S. military, including gay service members. A combative Obama criticized GOP presidential candidates for staying silent when the crowd at a recent debate booed a gay soldier who asked a question of the contenders via videotape. "You want to be commander in chief? You can start by standing up for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States, even when it's not politically convenient," Obama said during remarks at the annual dinner of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights organization.

US warns of retaliation following cleric's killing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration says the killing of a U.S.-born cleric in Yemen has raised the risk of anti-American violence worldwide. The State Department says the death of Anwar al-Awlaki would provide motivation for individuals or groups to retaliate against U.S. citizens or American interests. A department warning issued Saturday notes that al-Awlaki and other members of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula previously called for attacks against the U.S., and the warning says his supporters could seek to avenge his death. Al-Awlaki was killed during an attack on his convoy early Friday.

700 arrested after protest on NY's Brooklyn Bridge

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 700 protesters demonstrating against corporate greed, global warming and social inequality, among other grievances, were arrested Saturday after they swarmed the Brooklyn Bridge and shut down a lane of traffic for several hours in a tense confrontation with police. The group Occupy Wall Street has been camped out in a plaza in Manhattan's Financial District for nearly two weeks staging various marches, and had orchestrated an impromptu trek to Brooklyn on Saturday afternoon. The majority of those arrested were given citations for disorderly conduct and were released, police said.

Asia

Typhoons leave 55 dead, Filipinos trapped on roofs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Back-to-back typhoons left at least 55 people dead and rescuers scrambling on Sunday to deliver food and water to hundreds of villagers stuck on rooftops for four days because of flooding in the northern Philippines.

Typhoon Nalgae slammed ashore in northeastern Isabela province Saturday then barreled across the main Luzon Island's mountainous north and agricultural plains that were still sodden from fierce rain and wind unleashed by a howler just days earlier. Nalgae left at least three people dead Saturday while Typhoon Nesat killed 52 others in the same region before blowing out Friday.

Nalgae was whirling 124 miles (200 kilometers) over the South China Sea from the country's northeast toward southern China early Sunday with sustained winds of 81 miles (130 kilometers) per hour and gusts of 99 mph (160 kph), according to the government weather agency.

Its ferocious wind set off a rockslide in northern Bontoc province Saturday, causing boulders to roll down a mountainside and smash on a passing van, where a passenger was pinned to death and another was injured, police said.

AP

Residents evacuate to safer grounds as massive flooding continues for the second day Saturday Oct. 1, 2011 at Calumpit township, Bulacan province north of Manila, Philippines.

In northern Tarlac province's Camiling town, an uncle sought safety with his two young nephews as flooding rose in their village Saturday. But one of the children was swept away by rampaging waters and drowned while his uncle and brother remained missing. A drunk man drowned in flooding in a nearby village, provincial disaster officer Marvin Guiang said.

Nalgae roared through a similar path across areas on Luzon saturated by Typhoon Nesat, which trapped thousands on rooftops and sent huge waves that breached a seawall in Manila Bay. Nesat also pummeled southern China and was downgraded to a tropical storm just before churning into northern Vietnam on Friday afternoon, where flood warnings were issued and 20,000 people evacuated.

In the rice-growing province of Bulacan north of Manila, hundreds of residents in flooded Calumpit town remained trapped on rooftops in four villages for the fourth day, many of them desperately waving for help. Rescuers aboard rubber boats could not reach them because of narrow alleyways. Two air force helicopters would be deployed Sunday to drop water and food packs to the marooned villagers, officials said.

Calumpit Mayor James de Jesus pleaded for more help from the national government.

"The ones waving for help are the ones who need to be rescued first because they have elderly people and children with them," de Jesus told ABS-CBN TV network. "We have a very big problem here ... we're facing a long flooding."

Benito Ramos, a retired army general who heads the Office Civil Defense, said floodwater was receding in many areas but freshly-dumped rains by Nalgae may flow down from the mountainous north to the central Luzon provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga, which act like a catch basin. Some officials said water released from nearby dams have exacerbated the flood.

Ramos said he and many rescuers have not slept for days but were elated to see help from many private groups and provinces unaffected by the typhoons.

"Their resiliency is being tested but many people are still smiling and waving," Ramos told The Associated Press by telephone from Calumpit, where he was overseeing rescue work. "It's grace under pressure."

In the last four months, prolonged monsoon flooding, typhoons and storms across Southeast Asia, China, Japan and South Asia has left more than 600 people dead or missing.

In India alone, the damage is estimated to be worth $1 billion, with the worst-hit state of Orissa accounting for $726 million.

Several studies suggest an intensification of the Asian summer monsoon rainfall with increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, the state-run Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology said. Still, it is not clear that this is entirely because of climate change, it said.

The damage from the earlier typhoon in the Philippines was estimated at $91 million.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan leader gives up trying to talk to Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—President Hamid Karzai has given up trying to talk to the Taliban, saying in a video released Saturday that Pakistan holds the only key to making peace with insurgents and must do more to support a political resolution to the war. Karzai revealed his tougher stance against Pakistan, which he claims is harboring militants, on the same day that the Afghan intelligence service said it has hard evidence that the assassination of former President Burhanuddin Rabbani was planned on the southern outskirts of Quetta, the Pakistani city where key Taliban leaders are based. Interior Minister Bismullah Khan Mohammadi went even further, stating in an Afghan parliamentary session that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency was involved in Rabbani's killing—an allegation Pakistan has denied.

Pakistani gets death sentence in governor's murder

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani court on Saturday convicted and sentenced a police officer to death for the killing of a liberal governor earlier this year, a murder that led to fears the country was buckling under the weight of extremism. The January murder in broad daylight of Punjab provincial governor, Salman Taseer, by one of his police guards was alarming in itself, but what came afterward perhaps even more so: lawyers showered his killer, Mumtaz Qadri, with flowers, thousands demonstrated in his defense and mainstream politician failed to publicly condemn the killing.

Bangladesh PM says polls under her administration

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina says that elections will take place in 2014 despite a boycott threat by opponents who want the government to restore a caretaker system to oversee the poll. Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at a mass rally last month criticized the government for abolishing a 15-year-old system under which elections were overseen by independent caretaker administrations after the end of a government's five-year term. Hasina on Saturday told reporters at a briefing that her administration would not reinstate the system.

US missiles kill Pakistani militant commander

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani and U.S. officials say an American missile strike near the Afghan border has killed an al-Qaida-linked Pakistani militant commander. Two Pakistani intelligence officials said Saturday the commander, Haleem Ullah, was among three militants killed in a U.S. missile strike in South Waziristan on Friday. A U.S. official says Ullah served as deputy to Maulvi Nazir, a Pakistani who leads a group of militants in the tribal region that is closely allied with al-Qaida. He says the group works with al-Qaida commanders to direct cross-border operations against the U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Thai prime minister's Twitter account hacked

BANGKOK (AP)—The Twitter account of Thailand's new prime minister has been hacked by someone posting criticism of her policies. Government spokeswoman Thitima Chaisaeng says Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's account was hacked into Sunday morning. The Information and Communication Ministry is looking into who was responsible. At least eight messages were posted accusing Yingluck's government of incompetence and cronyism. Yingluck's Pheu Thai Party won a landslide election victory in July, but critics charge she is just a puppet of her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Plane hits Ferris wheel in Australia; no injuries

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An ultra-light plane crashed into a Ferris wheel at a rural festival in eastern Australia on Saturday, trapping two children on the ride and two adults in the aircraft for hours. There were no serious injuries.

The Cheetah S200 carrying two men did not topple the Ferris wheel when it hit the frame near the top on the first morning of an annual three-day festival at Old Bar, a coastal village 220 miles (350 kilometers) north of Sydney, New South Wales Rural Fire Service spokesman Ben Shepherd said.

Two children—a 9-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl—were trapped in a carriage at the top of the wheel near the wrecked plane for 90 minutes, police said.

The 52-year-old pilot and his 32-year-old passenger were trapped inside the mangled aircraft more than 30 feet (10 meters) above ground for almost three hours, police said.

Shepherd said rescuers used a crane to free the four.

"Thankfully, everyone was taken down and were able to walk away from it," Shepherd said.

The pilot, Paul Cox, said he did not see the Ferris wheel before his plane hit it.

"The next thing I knew, I was stopped inside the Ferris wheel," he said. "I had no idea for a few minutes and I was just hoping no one got hurt."

Witnesses said the Ferris wheel was full of children minutes before the crash. But because of impending rain, only five had dared to take the final ride, said a festival organizer, who gave his name only as Terry.

"The kids were fantastic," said Brett Campbell, a paramedic at the scene. "They were so calm and so well-behaved and very brave. And so were the two gentlemen in the plane. They were just the best patients we could ever hope for, and the best thing about it, no one really had any injuries."

Fizal Meah, a witness, said one of the children in a carriage below the area of impact was struck by debris and was left distraught but uninjured.

"Because the rain was stopping and starting, stopping and starting, it was almost empty," Meah said.

Local resident Gary Jones said his 9-year-old twin sons were among the last to ride the Ferris wheel before the crash.

"It was a hell of a shock," Jones said.

Police and air safety investigators were at the scene Saturday.

The plane had just taken off from a nearby airstrip when it crashed, Meah said.

World

Underwear-bomb maker believed dead in Yemen strike

CAIRO (AP)—A Saudi militant believed killed in the U.S. drone strike in Yemen constructed the bombs for the al-Qaida branch's most notorious attempted attacks—including the underwear-borne explosives intended to a down a U.S. aircraft, and a bomb carried by his own brother intended to assassinate a Saudi prince.

The death of Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri would make the Friday drone strikes on a convoy in the central deserts of Yemen one of the most effective single blows in the U.S. campaign to take out al-Qaida's top figures.

The strike also killed Anwar al-Awlaki, a Yemeni-American cleric who had been key to recruiting for the militant group and a Pakistani-American, Samir Khan, who was a top English-language propagandist.

But Christopher Boucek, a scholar who studies Yemen and al-Qaida, said al-Asiri's death would "overshadow" that of the two Americans due to his operational importance to al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the Yemen-based group that is considered the most active branch of the terror network.

Late Friday, two U.S. officials said intelligence indicated al-Asiri was among those killed in the strike. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because al-Asiri's death has not officially been confirmed.

The 29-year-old al-Asiri was one of the first Saudis to join the Yemen-based al-Qaida branch and became its key bombmaker, designing the explosives in two attempted attacks against the United States.

His fingerprint was found on the bomb hidden in the underwear of a Nigerian man accused of trying to blow up Northwest Airlines Flight 253 over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009, according to U.S. counterterrorism officials. The attack failed because the would-be bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab botched detonating the explosives, ending up only burning himself before being wrestled away by passengers.

The explosives used in that bomb were chemically identical to those hidden inside two printers that were shipped from Yemen last year, bound for Chicago and Philadelphia in a plot claimed by al-Qaida. The bombs were intercepted in England and Dubai.

In perhaps his most ruthless operation, al-Asiri turned his younger brother, Abdullah, into a human bomb in a 2009 attempt to kill Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the kingdom's top counterterrorism official and son of its interior minister.

Abdullah volunteered for the suicide mission, asking to replace another militant named to carry it out, according to an account in Sada al-Malahem, an Arabic-language Web magazine issued by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. Abdullah pretended he was surrendering to Saudi authorities, and Prince Mohammed agreed to receive him in his home in Jiddah during a gathering to celebrate the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

While talking to the prince, Abdullah blew himself up. The prince, however, escaped with only injuries.

Saudi officials have said the bomb was "inside" Abdullah's body, but explosives experts believe that al-Asiri strapped the bomb between his brother's legs.

"Come see my brother Abdullah's body parts. May he enjoy it, he was killed the way he had hoped for and his body was torn for the love of God," al-Asiri said afterward, according to Sada al-Malahem.

All three bombs contained a high explosive known as PETN, or pentaerythritol tetranitrate, which was also used by convicted shoe bomber Richard Reid when he tried to destroy a trans-Atlantic flight in 2001.

AP

A Libyan revolutionary fighter prays in the desert during an attack on the city of Sirte, Libya, Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011.

Libyan family killed fleeing Gadhafi hometown

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Two children and their parents were killed by machine-gun fire Saturday while trying to flee Moammar Gadhafi's hometown along with hundreds of other residents, as forces loyal to the ousted regime engaged in heavy clashes with revolutionary fighters surrounding the city.

Their bodies were brought to a makeshift hospital outside Sirte, said a doctor there, Nuri Naari. They were hit by machine-gun fire as they drove toward the positions of revolutionary forces on the edges of the city, he said. It was unclear who killed them.

Meanwhile, the top U.S. commander for Africa told The Associated Press on Saturday that the military mission in Libya was largely complete and NATO's involvement could begin to wrap up as soon as next week after allied leaders meet in Brussels.

Sirte is one of the last cities to remain in loyalist hands. After months of stalemate in Libya's civil war, anti-Gadhafi forces swept into the capital in August and their leaders set up a transitional government. But the continued fighting in holdout cities and the failure to find and capture Gadhafi has kept Libya's new leaders from being able to declare victory.

Revolutionary forces had given families inside Sirte two days to leave the city starting Friday, said Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, head of the National Transitional Council that now runs the country. They tried to keep a safe corridor open for civilians fleeing the coastal city.

"This period will give a chance for families to leave the areas of fighting," he said at a press conference Saturday.

Hundreds of cars carrying Sirte residents formed long lines at revolutionary forces' checkpoints leading out of the city, calmly waiting to be checked by the fighters as explosions echoed in the distance.

Also Saturday, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a team including a doctor into Sirte to deliver medical supplies to a hospital.

In a press statement, the ICRC said there were 200 wounded people at the Ibn Sina hospital, which had shortages of fuel for its generator, as well as body bags and dressing kits.

Because of security conditions the ICRC said the team had to leave before assessing the humanitarian needs of civilians, but was able to speak to Sirte representatives who reported water and food shortages.

"The hospital is facing a huge influx of patients, medical supplies are running out and there is a desperate need for oxygen. On top of that, the water reservoir has been damaged," read the statement.

After weeks of fighting Gadhafi's loyalists inside Sirte, the fighters now hold positions about three miles (five kilometers) from the city center, said commander Mustafa al-Rubaie.

Last week, the Libyan Defense Ministry announced that Sirte's port, airport and military base were all under their control.

Al-Rubaie told The Associated Press that fighters from the east seized control of Sirte's first residential district and a hotel where Gadhafi's snipers were based.

Syrian troops retake most of central rebel town

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops retook most of a rebellious central town Saturday after five days of intense fighting with army defectors who sided with protesters in one of the worst clashes of the 6-month-old anti-government uprising, a rights group said. Rami Abdul-Rahman, head of the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the troops spread out across Rastan after defectors pulled out of the town.

The army defections as well as reports that once-peaceful protesters are increasingly taking up arms to fight the government crackdown have raised concerns of the risk of civil war in a country with a deep sectarian divide.

The outpouring against President Bashar Assad's regime began in mid-March with rallies by peaceful, unarmed protesters. Attacks by pro-regime gunmen and Syrian military forces have failed to stop the demonstrators from continuing to take to the streets.

The fighting in Rastan began with a government assault on Tuesday.

An activist who spoke with a Rastan resident able to flee the town Friday quoted him as saying the fighting was so heavy residents had to hide in their homes. Rights activists said 250 tanks and other army vehicles entered the town on Friday.

Land and cellular telephone services to Rastan were cut Saturday, making it impossible to get information from residents still inside.

In nearby areas, residents said the main highway linking the central city of Homs with the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, had been closed for days because of the fighting.

The London-based Observatory said three people died of their wounds Saturday, a day after they were shot by security forces. One of the men died in Talbiseh, near Rastan, while the two others died in the Damascus suburbs of Qudsaya and Harasta, the group said.

A military official said Friday that the clashes in Rastan killed seven soldiers and policemen. Thirty-two other troops were wounded, the official said.

The comments by the unidentified official were carried by state-run news agency SANA on Friday and were a government acknowledgment of the stiff resistance in Rastan.

The Syrian government has banned foreign journalists and placed heavy restrictions on local media coverage, making it difficult to independently verify events on the ground. The U.N. says some 2,700 people have already died in the crackdown since mid-March.

The Observatory said the death toll was approaching 3,000. Abdul-Rahman said that as of Saturday, 2,325 civilians have been killed as well as 656 members of the army and security forces.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kenya: Alleged Somali pirates abduct Frenchwoman

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Ten heavily armed Somali militants driving their boat under the cover of darkness kidnapped a Frenchwoman on a resort island in northern Kenya early Saturday, officials said. The woman often uses a wheelchair, according to the resident. The government blamed the attack on Somali militants from al-Shabab, and Kenyan navy and police chased the suspected boat at sea. The Frenchwoman was as Marie Dedieu. French officials said in a statement that she is in her 60s. The Kenyan government called her "elderly" and one official said she was in her 70s.

Media can't get enough of Knox trial in Italy

PERUGIA, Italy (AP)—Inside the courthouse, dozens of cameramen, photographers and reporters elbow their way around to get the best view of Amanda Knox. Outside, TV satellite trucks line the cobblestone streets of this central Italian town. The media have descended on Perugia by the hundreds to cover the highly anticipated verdict in the appeals trial of Knox, the photogenic young American convicted of murdering her British roommate. They tweet away in the courthouse, run around to get the latest soundbites by the lawyers, and stake out the Knox family hangouts for interviews.

AP: US fugitive claims new identity

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Captured American fugitive George Wright will claim a new identity to prevent the U.S. from extraditing him, his lawyer said Saturday. Wright, 68, became a Portuguese citizen, called Jose Luis Jorge dos Santos, in 1991 after marrying a Portuguese woman, lawyer Manuel Luis Ferreira told The Associated Press. Ferreira said in an interview that Wright's new identity was given to him by West African country Guinea-Bissau when it granted him political asylum in the 1980s and was accepted by Portugal. The U.S. is trying to extradite Wright to serve the remainder of his 15- to 30-year sentence for a 1962 murder in New Jersey. He had served more than seven years before breaking out of prison in 1970.

Focus

Global Islamic group rising in Asia

AP

In this Aug. 19, 2011 photo, members of Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia wave flags during a protest against corruption outside the presidential palace in Jakarta, Indonesia.

By DENIS D. GRAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

***Editor's Note**: This is part of the Associated Press occasional series on Tracking Terror.*

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The chanting crowd at the radical Muslim protest in Indonesia stood out for its normalcy: smartly dressed businessmen, engineers, lawyers, smiling mothers, scampering children.

At a time when al-Qaida seems to be faltering, the recruitment of such an educated, somewhat mainstream following is raising fears that Hizbut Tahrir, an enigmatic global movement, could prove more effective at radicalizing the Islamic world than outright terrorist groups.

Active in 45 countries, Hizbut is now expanding in Asia, spreading its radical message from Indonesia to China. It wants to unite all Muslim countries in a globe-spanning bloc ruled by strict sharia law. It targets university students and professionals, working within countries to try to persuade people to overthrow their governments.

The movement's appeal to an often influential part of society worries experts. Its goal of an Islamic state may be far-fetched, but it could still undercut efforts to control extremism and develop democracy in countries such as Indonesia, which the U.S. hopes will be a vital regional partner and a global model for moderate Islam.

"Our grand plan over the next five to 10 years is to reinforce the people's lack of trust and hope in the regime," said Rochmat Labib, the group's Indonesia chairman in a rare interview with a Western reporter. "That's what we are doing now: converting people from democracy, secularism and capitalism to Islamic ideology."

Hizbut Tahrir, which means The Party of Liberation, is also raising its profile in the U.S. after operating largely underground since the 1990s. Its first major event was a 2009 conference, followed by another one in Chicago this June.

Starkly conflicting views swirl around Hizbut. It has been described as both a peaceful movement to restore one-time Islamic glory and a breeding ground for future suicide bombers, "a conveyer belt to terrorism," in the words of Zeyno Baran, an expert on Islam in the modern world.

Banned in most countries, Hizbut remains legal in others, including the United States, Great Britain, Australia and Indonesia, where its leaders say it has spread to all 33 provinces. It is closely monitored everywhere, and often operates on the knife-edge of legality.

"The rhetoric they have goes to the fringe of democracy," said Hans Joergen Bonnichsen, the former head of Denmark's intelligence service. But the Danish Justice Ministry has twice asked the nation's top prosecutor if Hizbut could be banned under Danish law, and both times the answer was no.

Its new frontier in Asia ranges from Indonesia and neighboring Malaysia to Pakistan and China, where Beijing has accused it of inciting violence among Muslim Uighurs in the remote west. It has also become the most widespread, and persecuted, radical Muslim group in Central Asia.

The Indonesia chapter is believed to be the largest, with a following estimated in the hundreds of thousands, according to Sidney Jones, an expert on Islam in Southeast Asia.

"They are a real force here. They are a greater long-term threat to Indonesia than people who use violence," said Jones, a Jakarta-based analyst with the International Crisis Group think tank. "Collectively, hardline civil society can have a bigger effect than jihadists and terrorists."

Her words are echoed by anti-terrorism expert Zhang Jiadong of China's Fudan University, who said Hizbut is "more harmful than terrorist organizations, because it has more influence on ordinary people." The group, estimated at up to 20,000 members in China, is more likely to foment riots or rebellions than terrorist attacks, he said.

Ismail Yusanto, the group's urbane spokesman in Indonesia, insists that "we are a peaceful Islamic movement."

"We believe people can be influenced by their environment, so so-called terrorists could be influenced by everyone, not just us. But Hizbut itself is committed to not being violent. There is no evidence," he says, when asked whether some adherents later veer to violence.

The claims of nonviolence contrast with the movement's fiery rhetoric, which calls for the annihilation of Israel—that's what led to it being outlawed in Germany in 2003—and exhorts Muslims to fight coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. One flyer shows a decapitated Statue of Liberty with New York City aflame in the background.

The U.S. State Department says the group "may indirectly generate support for terrorism but there is no evidence that it has committed any acts of terrorism."

Hizbut followers may later "graduate" to terror under the tutelage of other groups. Often cited are the first British suicide bombers, Asif Hanif and Omar Khan Sharif, who attacked a Tel Aviv bar in 2001 and had past Hizbut links.

AP Enterprise

Reports have also linked Hizbut to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the Sept. 11 mastermind, and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the former al-Qaida chief in Iraq, but they have never been proven.

Hizbut calls for the establishment of a caliphate, uniting all Muslim nations under centralized Islamic rule in emulation of such entities that flourished in the past.

This is to be attained by changing Muslim mindsets to think beyond national borders, then pressing the message among political leaders, the armed forces and other power brokers until governments crumble.

Taquiddin an-Nabhani, a Palestinian lawyer who founded the movement in 1953, didn't rule out violence during the last stage of creating the caliphate, or the possibility of fighting Western nations to protect it or expand it into non-Muslim countries. In earlier days, Hizbut staged failed coups in Jordan, Syria and Egypt, and it is now largely banned in the Middle East.

In Indonesia, Jones said, Hizbut appeals to those who believe that neither the country's earlier dictatorship or present democracy has worked.

She said it has been able to infiltrate the top cleric body, the Indonesian Ulema Council, and local governments and exercises some clout on issues such as introducing sharia law, banning non-mainstream Muslim sects and opposing the operations of Western companies in Indonesia.

Unlike many Islamist groups, it welcomes women, who make up about a third of the membership, according to Ratu Erma, the head of its women's organization. It also enjoys a following among parts of the elite.

"Some of them work by day in Jakarta's main business district making the wheels of capitalism turn and after work talk about overthrowing the country's infidel system. It's one of the conundrums about the HT," says Greg Fealy, an Indonesia expert at Australian National University who is adamant that at least in Indonesia the group is nonviolent.

In Malaysia, young hard-liners disillusioned with the moderating stances of mainstream political parties have turned to Hizbut because "they feel it is sticking to Islamic principles more closely," said Mohamed Nawab Mohamed Osman of Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

Nawab, an expert on the group in Asia, said that Hizbut, which barely filled a meeting room in Malaysia in 2004, recently drew more than 1,000 to a conference and is present in every state but one.

Leaders and followers interviewed in both countries dodge questions about their numbers and inner workings, even the whereabouts of the current global leader, Ata Khalil Abu-Rashta, except to say he is based in the Middle East.

Behind its public face, Hizbut is built along Marxist-Leninst lines with secretive cells as key building blocks. Nawab says "students" may go through up to five years of arduous training and indoctrination to prove their commitment and become members. Some 60 percent don't make the grade.

Hizbut members have been imprisoned in Russia, Central Asian nations and elsewhere, but some experts say the broad definition of terrorism in these countries—rather than any acts committed—landed many of them in jail, and sometimes before execution squads.

Within the U.S., opinion is divided. The State Department doesn't name Hizbut as a terrorist group, but the New York City Police Department, in a document obtained by The Associated Press, identified it as a "tier one extremist group" in 2006.

The British government came close to banning the group after the 2005 London bombings, and government officials say membership has shrunk to fewer than 2,000 members. But Britain remains an important base for fundraising, propaganda efforts and recruiting senior members. Many leaders in Indonesia and Malaysia were once asylum seekers in the U.K. who got an education and made connections and then returned home.

Ed Husain, who described his time as a British member in the 2007 book "The Islamist," said that globally the movement is "strong, robust, growing."

"I still believe that the message and ideology of Hizbut Tahrir is as potent as ever," he said in an interview. "Their antidemocratic, anti-West, anti-Israel and anti-Muslim governments stance remains firm. As such, they implant confrontational, radical ideas and thus attitudes among young Muslims."

Associated Press writers Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Sean Yoong in Kuala Lumpur, Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, David Rising in Berlin, Paisley Dodds in London, Matt Apuzzo in New York, Ted Bridis in Washington and Associated Press researcher Yu Bing in Beijing contributed to this report.

Health & Fitness

Key answers about listeria in fruit

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some questions consumers may have about listeria in cantaloupes.

Q: What is listeria?

A: Listeria is a hardy bacteria found in soil and water that can be carried by animals. It is often found in processed meats because it can contaminate a processing facility and stay there for a long period of time. It is also common in unpasteurized cheeses and unpasteurized milk. It is less common in produce like cantaloupe, but there have been a couple of other listeria outbreaks in fruits and vegetables in recent years. When a person contracts the disease, it can cause fever, muscle aches, gastrointestinal symptoms and even death. One in five people who have listeria can die.

Q: Am I at risk?

A: Listeria generally only affects the elderly, people with compromised immune systems, pregnant women and newborns whose mothers were infected before birth. The median age of victims in this outbreak is 78 years old. Healthy, younger adults and most children can usually consume listeria with no ill effects or mild illness.

Q: So can I eat cantaloupe?

A: You should avoid cantaloupe from Jensen Farms, the Colorado grower that distributed the tainted fruit.

Q: How do I know if I have a cantaloupe from Jensen Farms?

A: The recalled cantaloupe may be labeled "Colorado Grown," "Distributed by Frontera Produce," "Jensenfarms.com" or "Sweet Rocky Fords." It may also be labeled "USA." Not all of the recalled cantaloupes are labeled with a sticker, the Food and Drug Administration said, so it may be hard to tell. Neither the government nor Jensen Farms has released a list of retailers who sold the fruit, so health officials advise consumers ask retailers about the origin of their cantaloupe.

AP

Cantaloupes rot in the afternoon heat on a field on the Jensen Farms near Holly, Colo., on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011.

Q: I think I may have had one of the contaminated cantaloupes in my home. But I'm not sure. What should I do?

A: The government's motto is "when in doubt, throw it out." And if you think you had tainted fruit in your home, clean and sanitize all surfaces it may have touched.

Q: I scrub all of my fruits and vegetables before I eat them. So I am okay, right?

A: Scrubbing is never a bad idea, but it may not rid produce of all contaminants, especially on cantaloupe which has a thick, rough skin with a lot of places for pathogens to hide. Health officials think people may have been sickened when people cut into their cantaloupes, bringing listeria on the outside of the fruit to the inside. If you think you may have a tainted cantaloupe in your house, the best recourse is to throw it out.

Q: It looks like the cantaloupes weren't even shipped to my state. Should I still be concerned?

A: The FDA said Jensen Farms shipped to 25 states, but it may have been resold in other states. Illnesses have been discovered in several states where cantaloupes weren't shipped, including in Maryland where a person died.

Q: Why have there been so many deaths?

A: Listeria is less well-known than other pathogens like salmonella and E. coli, which cause many more illnesses in tainted food every year. But listeria is more deadly. One in five people who contract it can die.

Q: When is this outbreak going to be over?

A: FDA and CDC officials said Wednesday that they expect the number of illnesses and even deaths to rise through October. Listeria has an incubation period of a month or more, so people who ate contaminated fruit last week may not see illnesses until next month.

Personal Trainer

Strength training with a purpose

Rather than improving your performance in a sport or developing specific muscles, "functional strength training" gives real-life benefits.

What it is

Workout aimed at improving your coordination, strength and endurance in a specific everyday activity or activities

Designing practical exercises

1 Analyze the physical demands of daily activities you want to enhance; some things to look for:

- Coordination required
- Speed of movement
- Range of joint motion

2 Look specifically at the types of muscle contractions required:

- Pulling toward you
- Pushing away
- Twisting or off-center movement
- Exerting force on a stationary object

3 Put together exercise routines that will improve your strength for those movements

Example

Goal: Climb stairs more easily, with less discomfort

Exercises: Squats and step-ups, which strengthen muscles used in stair climbing

Source: American Council on Exercise
© 2011 MCT
Graphic: Paul Trap

If you're happy and you know it, did you tweet?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Twitter confirms it: People tend to wake up in a good mood and are happiest on weekends. The fast-paced forum is offering scientists a peek at real-time, presumably little-filtered human behavior and thoughts. Cornell University researchers turned to the microblog to study mood and found a pretty consistent pattern.

The researchers analyzed English-language tweets from 2.4 million people in 84 countries, more than 500 million of the brief, conversation-like exchanges sent over two years. They used a computer program that searched for words indicating positive mood—happy, enthusiastic, brilliant—or negative mood—sad, anxious, fear.

What they found: Unless you're a night owl, a positive attitude peaks early in the morning and again near midnight, but starts to dip midmorning before rising again in the evening.

Aha, you might think, going to work and related hassles like traffic explain that pattern. After all, there was more positive tweeting on the weekend, even though the morning peak of happy tweets occurred two hours later, probably because people slept late.

Not quite. Work-related stress may play some role but it can't explain why that same midday dip occurs on the weekend, too, said lead researcher Scott Golder, a Cornell graduate student. Instead, the pattern probably is due to the effects of sleep and our 24-hour biological clock, the so-called circadian rhythms that signal when it's time to sleep and to wake, Golder and Cornell sociologist Michael Macy reported. Their study appears in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

The researchers also examined tweets in the United Arab Emirates, where Friday and Saturday are considered the weekend. Sure enough, they found the same daily pattern, even though the workday tends to begin earlier there than in the West, and the same weekend pattern.

Previous research has linked the biological clock and mood, but was based mostly on small studies of American college students. There are cautions about studying Twitter postings, too: Their authors tend to be younger than the general population, and may be more affluent, better educated and different in yet-to-be-discovered ways.

Still, the study's bigger message is about the scientific potential of social media, Macy said.

Other researchers have turned to Twitter to study political campaigning, to blog postings and Twitter feeds to study emotions, and to Google searches of flu symptoms to predict outbreaks.

"It illustrates a new opportunity for doing social and behavioral science in ways that were really unimaginable even five years ago," Macy said.

Health Matters

Detecting prostate cancer

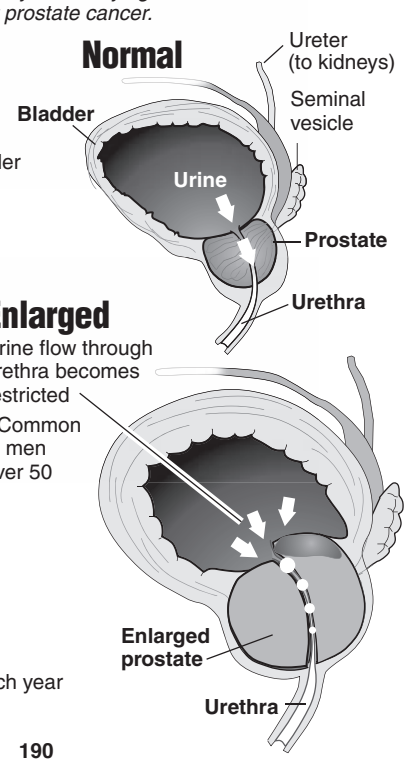
Researchers at Rutgers University are studying how MRI scans can be used to more accurately detect prostate cancer.

Prostate gland
Secretes thick whitish fluid that helps transport sperm

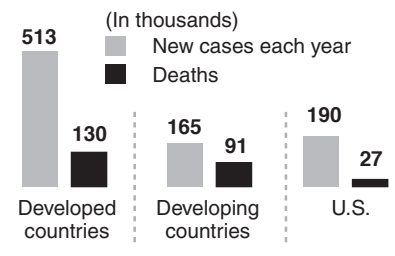
Urethra
Transports urine from the bladder out the penis; passes through prostate gland

New detection process

- Images from traditional MRI show two-dimensional pictures of gland's cell structure
- MR spectroscopy maps concentrations of certain chemicals (chlorine, creatine and citrate)
- Changes in concentrations indicate presence of cancer



Cases, deaths worldwide



Source: Mayo Clinic, Rutgers University, American Cancer Society
Graphic: Lee Hulteng
© 2010 MCT

Life & Style

Harry Potter e-book sales postponed until 2012

LONDON (AP)—Harry Potter fans will have to wait a bit longer to buy the magic tales in electronic form.

The creators of the online Potter portal said Friday that the launch of an e-book store has been pushed back to next year.

The seven Harry Potter books had been due to go on sale in October, exclusively through the "Pottermore" website.

The site is a combination of virtual encyclopedia, role-playing game and online community for fans of author J.K. Rowling's boy wizard.

It launched in July and is so far accessible to 1 million registered users chosen through an online competition.

In a blog posting on the site, "Pottermore" management said registration would be open to everyone from the end of October, and the online store would open in "the first half of 2012."

The posting said use of the site so far had been "phenomenal," and the delay would "allow us to focus on our first priority: opening 'Pottermore' to as many people as possible and making the experience as good as it can be."

The Harry Potter novels have sold 450 million copies—and made Rowling one of the world's richest women, with a fortune estimated by Forbes magazine at $1 billion—but have never been available as e-books.

Rowling annoyed some booksellers with her decision to circumvent established retailers and sell the e-books and digital audio books through her own site.

The creators of "Pottermore" say the books will be compatible with popular e-readers, including Amazon's Kindle, Sony's Reader and Apple's iPad.

Alton Brown wants next cookbook to be e-book

NEW YORK (AP)—Alton Brown's next cookbook may be more like "The Matrix" than Food Network.

That's because the host of the network's "Iron Chef America" says he's done with old-school publishing and wants to focus instead on innovative e-books.

"I want to go where nobody has gone before," Brown said Saturday during an interview at the New York City Wine and Food Festival. "I want to change the way we deal with information in the kitchen."

He says his just-released book, "Good Eats 3," will be his last traditional cookbook. Future books—each of which will have 25 recipes—will be immersive, highly interactive blends of text, photos and video.

And this isn't your average cooking demo video. Alton says the videos are being shot using a circle of 40 cameras that capture the action from all angles. Viewers then will be able to pan around the scene, stopping and watching it from any angle.

In this photograph taken by AP Images for Time Warner Cable, from left, Time Warner Cable's Senior Director Partnerships, Kristin Malaspina, Time Warner Cable's SVP of Marketing and Communication, Marissa Freeman, Alton Brown, Patty Lumpkin, SVP Affiliate Marketing Scripps, and Mark Quinn, SVP National Accounts Scripps Networks, pose behind a stage display for the Time Warner Cable Presents Food Networks' The Next Iron Chef Experience in New York, Friday, Sept. 30, 2011.

AP

He likened the experience to the so-called stop-motion special effects used in the science-fiction movie "The Matrix," in which the action seemed to freeze while the camera angle rotated.

Brown hopes future innovations will include kitchen tools that connect wirelessly to tablet computers, allowing the recipes to automatically adapt to a user's ingredients or cooking conditions.

"We're trying to figure out how to reinvent information flow, to break out of recipes," he says. "Cooking is a linear process, but that doesn't mean the information has to be delivered in a linear way."

Dr. Jack Kevorkian's art, belongings to be sold

DETROIT (AP)—Paintings, writings and the iconic blue sweater of assisted suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian are going up for auction, his attorney and close friend said Friday.

Lawyer Mayer Morganroth said the late pathologist's artwork and items will be sold in late October at the New York Institute of Technology. Scheduled for auction are more than 20 paintings, Kevorkian's art kit and the sweaters he became known for donning during his high-profile assistance in the suicides of dozens of people in the 1990s.

Many of the paintings depict death or dying, and are often intended to provoke or disturb. One of those up for auction is entitled "Genocide," and features a bloody head being dangled by the hair and held by the hands of two soldiers. One wears a German military uniform from World War II and the other a Turkish uniform from World War I.

Morganroth said Kevorkian wanted to depict the mass killings of Armenians and Jews during World I and World War II, respectively. The doctor was of Armenian descent.

AP

In a March 15, 1997 file photo, Dr. Jack Kevorkian talks to members of the news media about his new painting titled " Genocide" at the opening of his show at Ariana Gallery in Royal Oak, Mich.

"Just looking at it, you can say (it's) grotesque," Morganroth said. "They were to make a point, like any art."

CBS Detroit first reported the auction plan.

Morganroth said he doesn't know the value of the collection but most of the proceeds will go to Kevorkian's sole heir—a niece—and the charity Kicking Cancer for Kids. Morganroth said the timing was right to sell the items, since there was interest from several auction houses and the broader art world, as well as a desire to settle the estate.

The Associated Press left a message seeking comment with the New York Institute of Technology.

Kevorkian was convicted of second-degree murder in 1999, and was released from prison in 2007. He died in June at the age of 83.

Suburban Detroit art gallery owner Anne Kuffler, who has twice displayed Kevorkian's work and sells signed and numbered lithographs of six of his works for $500 apiece, said she was offered $100,000 for one of his original paintings during the first exhibit of his work in 1994. Kuffler, owner of the Ariana Gallery in Royal Oak, suspects that the value has only increased since then.

"I had several orders for his prints this morning," she said.

Kuffler recalled an argument with Kevorkian, who painted the frame of "Genocide" with his own blood and wanted to have a skeleton with an IV flowing through it next to the painting.

"He said, `I want to show how horrible it is, I want people to be upset by it,'" Kuffler said. "I said, `If you haven't portrayed it in your painting, then you haven't succeeded.'"

Many of the paintings have been hanging at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Watertown, Mass., which also has a collection of his compositions and writings. Kevorkian was also a keen musician and composer.

"I think the legacy is showing the many facets of him and his capabilities," Morganroth said. "He was a multi-talented man."

UN seeks designs for memorial to slavery victims

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations launched an international design competition Friday for a permanent memorial to victims of slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

The memorial will be constructed at U.N. headquarters in New York and the competition is open to all artists. The theme of the project is "Acknowledging the Tragedy, Considering the Legacy; Lest We Forget," and designs must be submitted by Dec. 19.

The U.N. General Assembly has endorsed the memorial, and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a Permanent Memorial Committee, and Caribbean and African nations are overseeing the project.

"The issue of slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade stands out still today as a crime against humanity, one of the first manifestations of man's inhumanity to man," Jamaica's U.N. Ambassador Raymond Wolfe, chair of the Memorial Committee, told a news conference launching the competition.

The aim, he said, is to have "one of the worst chapters in human history ... finally being acknowledged and honored here at the United Nations."

Wolfe expressed hope that the monument would be a place for reflection, education "and sober thought."

He added: "And that monument must be a symbol, a strong symbol, to say never again."

Wolfe appealed to governments and corporate donors to contribute generously to reach the goal of $4.5 million to construct the memorial. UNESCO indicated that about $1 million has been contributed so far.

UNESCO is administering the competition's initial phase, reviewing qualifications of entrants and selecting 16 semi-finalists. These will be sent to the Permanent Memorial Committee at U.N. headquarters, where an international panel of judges will select seven finalists and the winning design. The artist who designed it will receive a $50,000 award.

Husband no longer in love is tempted to get out and about

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Over the past several years I have fallen out of love with my wife. We're now at a point where all we do is cohabitate for the sake of the children. She often says she wants nothing to do with the kids and treats me as below human. She calls me at work repeatedly, then hangs up on me if I don't agree or give her the answer she wants. I finally had enough and told her I can no longer live like this.

She's now saying she has "seen the error of her ways" and wants to change. I don't know if I believe her or even care at this point. I have been so beaten down I just go through the motions. Part of me would like to see who else is out there for me, but then my wife cries and says she has "nowhere to go" and that I'd be putting the mother of my children "out on the street." She doesn't work because she can't keep a job. (Something always comes up that forces her to walk out.) Please help me. I am beside myself and don't know what to do.

AT A CROSSROADS IN COLORADO

DEAR AT A CROSSROADS: Try marital counseling for your children's sake, to determine whether your wife is capable of changing and whether your marriage can be salvaged.

If the answer is no, consult an attorney who specializes in family law, and when you do, seek custody of your children. If your wife says she wants nothing to do with them now, after a divorce her attitude isn't likely to improve. They will need a caring, supportive parent close to them. If your wife is as you have described, she appears to be more interested in a meal ticket than a partner, and you deserve better.

DEAR ABBY: I am a college student. In order to save money on housing, my best friend, "Keira," and I decided to get an apartment together. She's engaged, so it's actually the two of us and her fiance, "Bruce." All of us were enthusiastic about the idea. They moved in a few months before me because I had a job back home and their jobs were at school.

Because they moved in first, they treat me as if it is "their" apartment and I merely have a room there. When I try to buy things for the apartment, such as a new tablecloth, bath mat, etc., Keira immediately undoes any changes I have made when I leave for the day. I feel it is her passive-aggressive way of undermining me. It happens every day with something.

This may seen petty, but this is my apartment, too. I pay rent just as they do, and I want to feel at home here as well. Keira is stubborn and wants things her way. How can I get her to quit this behavior without causing further animosity within our home?

HOME-LESS IN NEW YORK

DEAR HOME-LESS: Convene a household meeting and tell Keira and Bruce what you have told me. While they arrived first and furnished "their" nest, you have an equal right to have it reflect some of your taste and personality. For your friend to erase it while your back is turned is inconsiderate of your feelings.

If you don't bring this out in the open, you will never establish a compromise. Because Keira is planning to be married, she had better get used to the concept of compromise because a successful marriage is full of it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Obamas out to dinner for wedding anniversary

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama are at a celebratory dinner marking their wedding anniversary.

The Obamas arrived at Restaurant Eve, located in Alexandria, Va., just outside of Washington.

Earlier in the night, the president spoke at an event for a major gay rights organization. He returned to the White House briefly before his motorcade made its way to the upscale restaurant.

The couple's 19th anniversary is Monday.

Toby Keith weighs in on gay marriage, military

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Toby Keith says gay marriage doesn't bother him and trying to stop it wastes time and money.

The country superstar tells "CMT Insider" airing Saturday on CMT that he doesn't see the reason behind getting into people's personal lives. He says refusing a marriage license to people because they are gay won't stop them from living together, so it accomplishes nothing.

Keith also weighed in on the military's now-repealed "don't ask, don't tell" policy that banned gays serving openly in uniform. He says that anyone with the training and passion should have the right to defend the country, adding: "Somebody's sexual preference is, like, who cares?"

The "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue" singer has taken part in nine USO tours to entertain U.S. troops overseas.

In this April 3, 2011 file photo, country singer Toby Keith performs at the 46th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

AP

Gene Simmons and longtime girlfriend marry

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rocker Gene Simmons and his longtime girlfriend, actress Shannon Tweed, have tied the knot.

Publicist Dawn Miller offered her congratulations to "the new married couple" on Facebook.

Simmons and Tweed have been a couple for years. Their engagement announcement last month surprised many fans.

People magazine reported the couple exchanged vows they wrote themselves. The magazine said about 400 guests attended the Saturday evening ceremony outside a Beverly Hills hotel.

The 62-year-old Kiss bassist and the 54-year-old Tweed have two children.

AP

In this Aug. 23, 2011 file photo, Gene Simmons, left, and Shannon Tweed arrive at the "Scarface" Legacy Celebration Event in Los Angeles.

The new season of the reality show "Gene Simmons Family Jewels" premieres Tuesday on the A&E network.

Whoopi Goldberg says potato chips are her weakness

NEW YORK (AP)—Culinary confession time for Whoopi Goldberg: Potato chips are her undoing.

At the New York City Wine and Food Festival on Friday, Goldberg said she "can't resist them. It's terrible. And fried chicken, but that's so ethnic I'm afraid to say it out loud." And, she added, she won't "eat watermelon in public, just on principle."

Goldberg is hosting the festival's annual Burger Bash competition but admits that it's an odd job for a woman who doesn't cook. That is, with one exception: Every year she tries to recreate her late mother's Thanksgiving turkey.

Goldberg says her mom "made a great holiday turkey. And every year I try it."

She says it's how they reconnect. And, Goldberg adds, it's the only thing she knows how to make.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Rapper T.I. shows at daughter's group concert

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Rapper T.I. didn't waste any time hitting the stage after his recent release from a halfway house. The Grammy-winning rapper made a surprise appearance in front of a packed audience on Friday night, following a performance by the girl group the OMG Girlz that features his stepdaughter, Zonnique. The pop girl trio was one of the acts to kick off the 23-city Scream Tour. The tour also includes Diggy Simmons, Hamilton Park, Mindless Behavior, and Jacob Latimore and New Boyz. As T.I. walked on stage, there was an enormous scream from the packed crowd of about 2,700 at the Bell Auditorium in Augusta, Ga. He told attendees that it feels "great to be back." T.I. was released Thursday from an Atlanta halfway house after spending about 10 months in federal prison on a probation violation.

Paul Simon, Patriots owner inducted into academy

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Singer-songwriter Paul Simon and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft are among more than 175 artists, scientists and institutional leaders who have been inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The induction ceremony took place Saturday in Sanders Theater at Harvard University. Simon surprised the crowd by playing "American Tune" from his 1973 album "There Goes Rhymin' Simon." Other inductees included groundbreaking cancer researcher Clara Bloomfield and film producer Kathleen Kennedy, who's well known for her work on "Jurassic Park" and "E.T." Founded in 1780, the Cambridge, Mass.-based academy is one of the country's oldest learned societies. Its membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates, some 100 Pulitzer Prize winners and many of the world's most celebrated artists and performers.

'Grease' actor Conaway died of major infections

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An autopsy has ruled that "Taxi" and "Grease" star actor Jeff Conaway's May 27 death was accidental and caused by major internal infection. Los Angeles County coroner Craig Harvey says coroners did not conduct a toxicology test because Conaway had been hospitalized for weeks prior to his death, so his blood would have come back clean. However, Harvey says when Conaway entered the hospital May 10, opiates and other drugs were in his system. Conaway struggled publicly with his addictions on "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew." Conaway, who had repeated back surgeries for an injury, blamed his drug abuse, in part, on his lingering back problem. Conaway was known for playing vain, struggling actor Bobby Wheeler on "Taxi" and Kenicke, the swaggering best friend of John Travolta in "Grease."

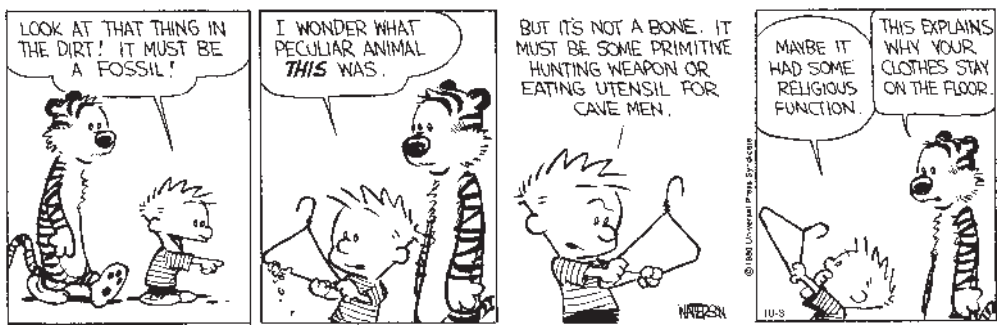
Ferris Bueller returns to Wrigley Field

CHICAGO (AP)—Ferris Bueller has returned to Wrigley Field, though this time he didn't have to cut class. And he helped set a world record. The 1986 film "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" about three truant teenagers' adventures around Chicago was screened Saturday night at the historic baseball field. The event helped mark the film's 25th anniversary. The trio attends a Chicago Cubs game at the park in one scene. In another, Ferris lip syncs "Danke Schoen" after getting onto a parade float. Prompted by that classic scene, more than 900 viewers sang the song before the screening. A representative from the Guinness Book of World Records confirms it broke the previous 500-person record for the most people singing in a round. The screening was the first of its kind at Wrigley Field.

Pastimes

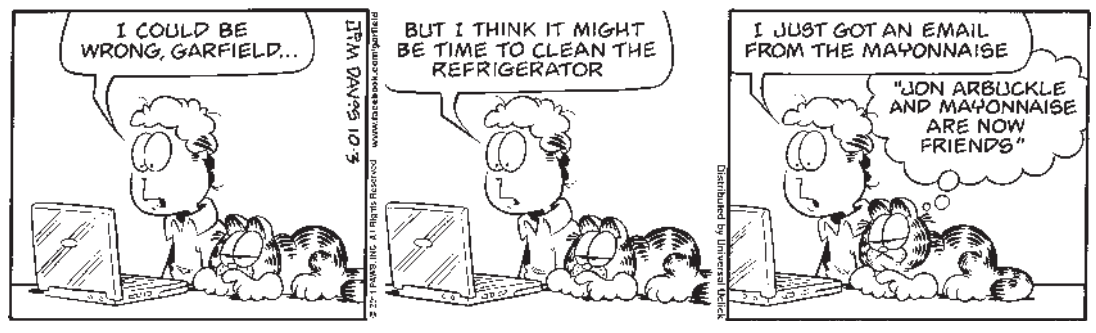
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK AT THAT THING IN THE DIRT! IT MUST BE A FOSSIL!
I WONDER WHAT PECULIAR ANIMAL THIS WAS.
BUT IT'S NOT A BONE. IT MUST BE SOME PRIMITIVE HUNTING WEAPON OR EATING UTENSIL FOR CAVE MEN.
WATTERSON
MAYBE IT HAD SOME RELIGIOUS FUNCTION.
THIS EXPLAINS WHY YOUR CLOTHES STAY ON THE FLOOR.
10-3

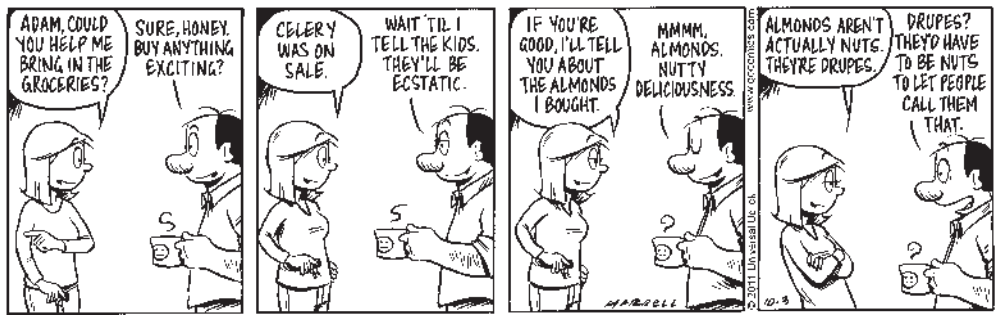
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I COULD BE WRONG, GARFIELD...
BUT I THINK IT MIGHT BE TIME TO CLEAN THE REFRIGERATOR
I JUST GOT AN EMAIL FROM THE MAYONNAISE
"JON ARBUCKLE AND MAYONNAISE ARE NOW FRIENDS"

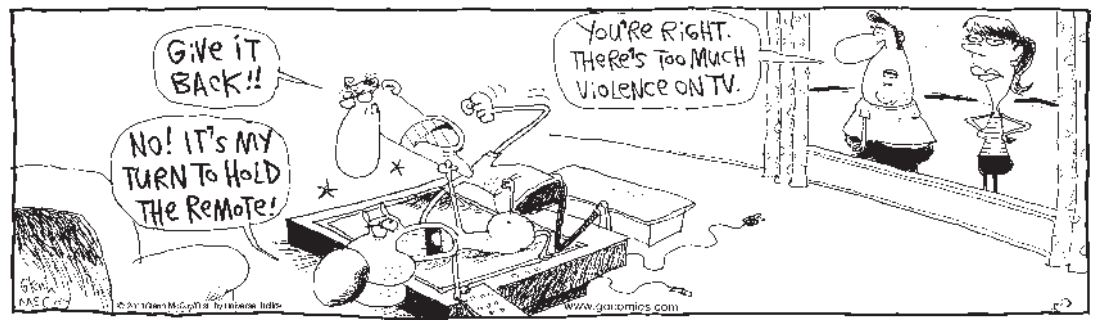
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, COULD YOU HELP ME BRING IN THE GROCERIES?
SURE, HONEY. BUY ANYTHING EXCITING?
CELERY WAS ON SALE.
WAIT 'TIL I TELL THE KIDS. THEY'LL BE ECSTATIC.
IF YOU'RE GOOD, I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE ALMONDS I BOUGHT.
MMMM, ALMONDS. NUTTY DELICIOUSNESS.
ALMONDS AREN'T ACTUALLY NUTS. THEY'RE DRUPES.
DRUPES? THEY'D HAVE TO BE NUTS TO LET PEOPLE CALL THEM THAT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actress Gardner
4 Vine-covered shelter
9 Owns
12 Perch
13 Wilkes—, Pa.
14 Everything
15 Surgeons' devices
17 Reason to say "alas"
18 — constrictor
19 Addicted
21 Unisex garb
24 Spheres
25 — carte
26 "Humbug!"
28 Giggly sound
31 Columns' crossers
33 AAA job
35 Play area
36 Playful water critter
38 Dowel
40 Bankroll
41 Warmth
43 Chic
45 Burn somewhat
47 Joke
48 Goof up
49 "The Old Man and the Sea" author
54 Pistol
55 Implant
56 Literary collection
57 Praise in verse
58 Rental contract
59 Workout venue

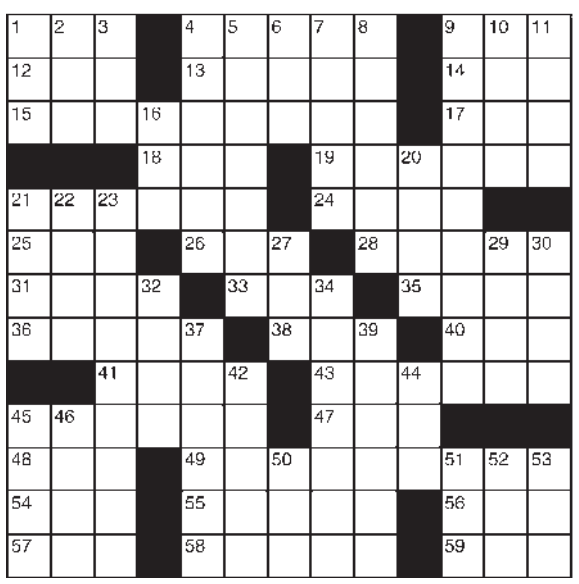
DOWN

1 Fire residue
2 Compete
3 $ dispenser
4 Soak up
5 Knocking sound
6 Lingerie item
7 Lawn-care brand
8 Vacation mecca
9 Detectives
10 Lotion additive
11 Coaster
16 Kimono sash
20 Do what you're told
21 Poi root
22 Coin aperture
23 Author Nathaniel
27 Jump
29 Historic times
30 Whirlpool
32 Prognosticator
34 Women's shoes
37 Jennifer's "Friends" role
39 Rio —
42 Topic
44 Ovum
45 Lily variety
46 Gunky stuff
50 CEO's degree
51 Humorous sort
52 Whatever amount
53 Thanksgiving vegetable

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	S	S	■	S	L	A	P	■	C	U	J	O
I	F	I	■	W	I	N	O	■	A	T	O	P
P	A	L	■	A	B	E	L	■	S	A	V	E
S	T	O	R	M	Y	W	E	A	T	H	E	R
■	■	■	■	S	P	A	■	C	U	E	■	■
G	R	A	V	Y	■	■	Y	A	K	■	L	O	B
Y	E	L	P	■	J	O	T	■	H	I	D	E
M	O	E	■	W	O	K	■	B	I	D	D	Y
■	■	■	N	O	S	■	G	E	L	■	■	■
P	A	T	E	N	T	L	E	A	T	H	E	R
E	R	I	E	■	L	I	N	T	■	A	L	I
A	G	E	D	■	E	C	R	U	■	I	S	M
R	O	S	Y	■	D	E	E	P	■	L	E	E

Saturday's answer 10-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashlee Simpson, 27; Seann William Scott, 35; Neve Campbell, 38; Gwen Stefani, 42.

Happy Birthday: Ease into whatever you do. It's important to prepare as much as possible before making a commitment that you will have to live with for years to come. Pressure to earn more will take its toll. It's important that you enjoy what you do. Use your charm, follow your intuition and you will excel. Your numbers are 4, 13, 22, 28, 30, 42, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take on responsibility. Your ability to work quickly will be impressive. Participate in social events that are conducive to business and pleasure. An old friend or colleague will relay important information that can raise your income. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Express your ideas creatively. Follow your own path and make whatever you do appealing. You can ask for favors and support, but make sure you get what you want in writing. Someone from your past will help you make a decision. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Concentrate on advancement. Others will be intrigued by your quirkiness. A chance to develop something new will add to your credentials and draw recognition from those who can utilize your talent. If you don't like an offer, stay calm and counteroffer. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be fooled by what others do or say. A partnership problem will lead to unexpected change. Do your best to keep things stable at home. Someone will cost you emotionally and financially if you don't protect your assets. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will be a recipient of good fortune if you are patient. An opportunity will pan out as long as you don't hesitate. If you waver, a promise may not be honored. Romance is highlighted and a commitment will be well received. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Pick up new skills and information. What you discover now will pay off in the future. If you revisit your past, size up your situation and refrain from making similar mistakes, you will excel. Someone from your past will make you an offer. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't give in to demands or put up with outrageous behavior. Stand up for your rights and express yourself boldly. Unexpected changes are likely, but if you follow your own path you will have no regrets. It's you who needs to be pleased. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take old ideas and new technology and meld them together. You'll come up with a viable way to finish a project and turn it into a moneymaking machine. Expand your ideas and you will make financial gains. Take advantage of anyone offering assistance. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Turn your dream into a reality. Create the position you want and your services will be in demand. Love is in the stars, and mixing business with pleasure will pay off. Don't let an emotional mishap ruin your fun. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Prepare for the unexpected. Don't be daunted by last-minute changes. Follow your heart, regardless of what others do. Focus on home and family no matter what occurs. Speak from the heart and no one will be able to fault you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You don't have to exaggerate to be heard. Your unique way of putting things will help you outsmart anyone who may have a different agenda. Upfront and forceful is the best route to take in order to beat any competition faced. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can get ahead professionally and improve your status by nudging people you've worked with in the past to team up with you again. Don't linger. Time is money, and now is your moment to bask in the limelight. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, sophisticated, intelligent, determined and unpredictable.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	2		5			9		
7	5		8	6	9	2		
							1	5
1	3						2	
	4			1			8	
	8						7	6
4	9							
		2	6	4	3		9	7
		6			5		3	

Difficulty Level ★ 10/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	4	5	7	1	9	6	8
7	5	1	8	6	9	2	4	3
9	6	8	4	3	2	7	1	5
1	3	7	9	8	6	5	2	4
6	4	5	2	1	7	3	8	9
2	8	9	3	5	4	1	7	6
4	9	3	7	2	8	6	5	1
5	1	2	6	4	3	8	9	7
8	7	6	1	9	5	4	3	2

Difficulty Level ★ 10/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHANGHAI DUMPLINGS Solution: 6 letters

T	W	H	G	N	I	N	E	T	R	O	H	S	P	H
C	R	A	G	E	N	I	V	Y	K	K	L	H	E	C
H	A	A	T	U	L	B	A	R	C	I	T	A	E	H
I	P	B	D	E	O	A	A	O	C	I	L	P	L	O
C	P	R	B	I	R	D	T	E	S	T	U	E	E	P
K	I	O	L	A	T	S	S	I	H	P	O	J	D	P
E	N	T	A	E	G	I	Z	Y	N	O	N	D	I	E
N	G	H	N	L	A	E	O	S	H	R	I	M	P	D
D	W	D	C	O	S	V	E	N	E	K	O	T	Ⓟ	N
F	E	O	H	H	C	B	E	P	A	M	N	A	Ⓤ	U
R	S	L	R	I	U	E	P	S	M	L	S	S	Ⓞ	O
E	U	P	L	C	N	E	D	E	M	A	E	T	Ⓢ	P
S	G	R	I	I	P	B	A	M	B	O	O	E	S	U
H	A	L	F	C	F	T	E	E	W	S	O	L	I	D
G	R	M	S	O	Y	S	A	U	C	E	C	E	I	P

© 2011 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 10/3

Bamboo, Blanch, Broth, Cabbage, Chicken, Chopped, Crab, Crown, Cubes, Dark, Dough, Filled, Fine, Fresh, Garlic, Gelatin, Half, Healthy, Heat, Hole, Juicy, Leaves, Meaty, Onions, Peeled, Pepper, Piece, Pork, Pound, Shape, Shortening, Shrimp, Sizes, Slices, Solid, Soup, Soy Sauce, Spicy, Steamed, Stock, Sugar, Sweet, Taste, Tender, Traditional, Vinegar, Water, Wrapping

Last Saturday's Answer: Dedicated

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Building Maintenance Repairer (1)
$5.05 per hour, five years experience required, basic knowledge and experience in carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and electrical.

Scuba Dive Instructor (2)
$1,2000 - $2,000 per month, five years experience required, licensed preferably by PADI, must be able to teach, speak, read, and write Japanese.

Email resume to ccenterprise.saipan@gmail.com or submit to CC Enterprise at Susupe, Talaya Ave. or call 234-6626.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

TEACHING POSITIONS
- High School Advanced Placement English and Math
- High School Science (Physics and Chemistry)
- High School Mandarin

STAFF POSITIONS
- Office Manager
- General Cleaner

If interested bring resume and police clearance to Saipan International Schools. No telephone calls please.

GINEN SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: October 3, 2011 Closing Date: October 7, 2011

Position:	(1) Accountant
Salary:	$800 - $1,300 per month
Job Qualification:	Four year college diploma; minimum of eight years work-related experience; knowledgeable about Peachtree Accounting.
Position:	(1) Maintenance Building Repairer
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school graduate; minimum of two years work-related experience.
Position:	(1) Electrician
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	College or vocation school diploma; minimum four years work-related experience.
Position:	(4) Construction Laborers
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma; minimum of two years work-related experience.

You may pick up an application at Ginen Saipan, Industrial Drive, Puerto Rico
P.O. Box 503007 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 322-3121

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

CAFÉ at the PARK

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: October 3, 2011 Closing Date: October 7, 2011

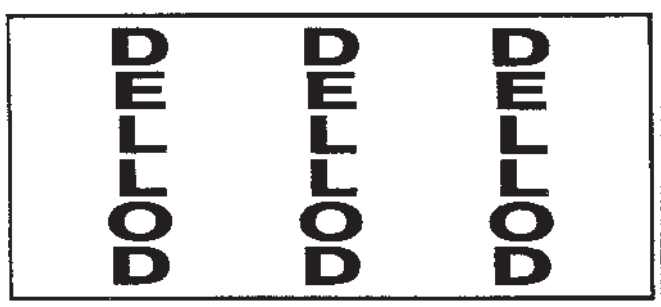
Position:	(1) Chef
Salary:	$1,200-1,300 per month
Job Qualification:	High school diploma, minimum of eight years work-related experience.
Position:	(3) Cook
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma, minimum of three years work-related experience.
Position:	(1) Supervisor, Dining/Restaurant
Salary:	$5.30 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma; minimum of three years work-related experience.
Position:	(3) Waiter/Waitress
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	Minimum of six months work-related experience. Positive attitude towards customers and knowledgeable about hygiene and safety standards.

You may pick up an application at Café at the Park, across American Memorial Park.
P.O. Box 503007 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 233-1010/1012

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Venture Transportation Corp
is currently seeking a
FULL TIME AUTO MECHANIC
Maintain Fleet of 30+ cars
Clean Driving Record • Auto Mechanic s Knowledge • Minimum of 5 Years experience • Fluent in English and Japanese preferred
Fax resume to 288-3347 or mail to PMB 699 P.O. Box 100001 Saipan MP 96950

APARTMENT/ HOUSE CLEANER
SALARY $5.05 PER HOUR
SEND RESUME TO
P.O. BOX 501555 C.K.
SAIPAN, MP 96950

WANTED
FARMER
at least 5 years experience
Please call 233-6183

ENGINEERING FIRM
IS SEEKING FOR:
- **Civil Engineer/ Construction Manager**
  20+ yrs. building and highway design/construction experience.
- **Civil Engineer/ Construction Inspector**
  10+ yrs construction experience.
  FHWA knowledge and experience.

U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT
EMAIL RESUME TO: rreyes12@netzero.net

Zinna Lynn R. Agulto
and Gregorio Perez
P.O. Box 502500
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 235-2485

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF: IGNACIO AGULTO PEREZ Minor Child, **by ZINNA LYNN R. AGULTO and GREGORIO MAUI PEREZ** Petitioners	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 11 - 0448** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 24, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before the Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 29th day of September, 2011

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution:
All dolled up

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE

09' White-Toyota Camry • Mileage-24,500 • Price-$15,500
09' Toyota Corrolla • Mileage-33,000 • Price-$12,500
Both in EXCELLENT condition! If interested Call 287-7676.

EMPLOYMENT

1-hairdresser or hairstylist
1-housekeeping or domestic helper
Submit resume at LKR Rosa Corp.
Katchu-Tataga St., San Antonio
Contact Rosa at tel.: 235-7850

US workers only. Optician, Medical Biller, Maint. & Repair Worker, Domestic Worker. Apply in person @ Marianas Eye Institute. No phone calls pls.

1 Barber, w/ 2 yrs experience, pleasing personality w/ good moral character. Inquiry, Call Genoveva's Hair Power, Inc. at 234-6378 or 234-9226.

3 fishermen bottom, trolling and diving. 6 mos. experience, minimum salary. Send resume to SFC P.O.Box 10005 Saipan, MP 96950

2-All Around Beauticians
Modern Hair Salon & Barber Shop
San Jose. Call Mau at 234-1440

1 Electronic Technician. $5.05-$6.50/hr & 1 Commercial Cleaner $5.05-$6.50/hr for inquiry call Cleo 234-9199. Champstar Trading Corporation

8 Janitors & Cleaners. Salary-$5.05-$5.50/hr. MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. Email resume to: admin@mtosaipan.com

2 Generator Techinician. Salary-$5.05 - $14.00/hr. Elliott Systems LLC. Email resume to: jeff@elliottsystemsllc.com

1-General Manager $1,800.00-$ 2,500.00/mo. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or BA . PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 – Accountant $ 7.25-$ 13.00/hr. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1–Real Estate Appraiser $7.25 - $11.00/hr. Must be Licensed General Appraiser. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Office Manager $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ 5 yrs exp in PIII/Quick Books Acctg. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

3–Bookkeepers $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ 2 yrs exp of PII/Quick Books Acctg. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1–Insurance Sales Agent $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ minimum 2 yrs experience . PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

3–Janitors & Cleaners. Salary - $5.05 - $5.50/hr. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 General Manager $2,000.00-$2,500.00/mo. At least 5 years experience . Dae Dong Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Accountant $7.25 - $12.69/hr. Bachelors Degree in Accounting or BA. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Travel Guide $7.25-$8.92/hr. At least 5 years experience. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Tour Guide Salary - $7.25-$8.00/hr. At least 5 years experience. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

Wanted Commercial Cleaner

Must have 5+yrs. experience cleaning restaurants, businesses, and residences. Only US resident eligible need apply. Must be comfortable working around and cleaning up after dogs and cats, will do windows, not afraid of heights, with a green thumb. Call 256-1041.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0244**
Roger Nevin Ludwick, Deceased.	**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Anna Maria Pialur Limes has filed a Petition for Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Roger Nevin Ludwick, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, at the hour of 1:30pm.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Roger Nevin Ludwick, deceased, an to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they should file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., the law offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED, this 29th day of September, 2011

/s/ Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MERLY P. BACANI-MARQUEZ, Petitioner,	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0241**
Versus	**SUMMONS**
ARNOLD L. MARQUEZ, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2011.

/S/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Grace Christian Academy Tinian Campus
is looking for:

2 Elementary School Teachers and 2 Junior High Teachers – Full Time
Qualifications:
- Must be a holder of Bachelor's degree with at least 2 years teaching experience, preferably in a Christian School
- Must be willing to submit previous employer reference (non-relative) providing a proven track record for timeliness, excellent work ethic and job/personal responsibility.
- Must accept without verbal or mental reservations both the Statement of Faith and the education/doctrinal beliefs and objectives of the school (Grace Christian Academy) and the church (Tinian Christian Assembly of God)
- Must Adhere to all school and church policies and procedures and be willing to perform various other duties outside a classroom setting if need be.

Salary: $5.05/hour

1 School Custodian worker – Part Time – 25 hours per week
Qualifications:
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least 2 years experience as a school custodian having experience maintaining/overseeing all day to day facility operations of a school including grounds keeping, general building maintenance and various other school and student related responsibilities.
- Must be willing to submit previous employer references (non-relative) providing a proven track record for timeliness, excellent work ethic and job/personal responsibility.
- Must accept without verbal or mental reservations both the Statement of Faith and the educational/doctrinal beliefs and objectives of the school (Grace Christian Academy) and the church (Tinian Christian Assembly of God)
- Must adhere to all school and church policies and procedures and be willing to perform various other duties outside regular job duties if need be.

Salary: $5.05/hour

Applications may be downloaded at www.gca-nmi.com
Please submit completed applications to:
Grace Christian Academy – Tinian / PO Box 520422 by mail or in person
GCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International

Grace Christian Academy Rota Campus
is looking for:

1 Preschool Teacher
Holder of high School Diploma and at least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian School

1 Elementary School Teacher
Holder of Bachelor's degree in education or related field; at least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian School;
- Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
- Must adhere to all school policies and procedures;

Salary: $5.05/hour

Interested applicants may download application form at www.gca-nmi.com
Submit completed applications to:
Grace Christian Academy, Sinapalo 1, Rota, MP 96951
GCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?

YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT!

Saipan Tribune
235-6397

Avis Rent A Car is looking for highly motivated individuals with great customer service and a friendly and outgoing personality to fill the following positions:

- **Full Time Rental Sales Agent**
  - Japanese speaking preferred
  - Must have computer experience
- **On Call Part Time Automotive Service Detailer**

Applicants must possess a High School diploma or Equivalent, have a valid driver's license and be willing to work flexible hours.

All applications and resumes can be submitted to our Avis counter located at the Saipan International Airport. No phone calls please.

AVIS We try harder.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ALL UNCLAIMED COMPUTERS SERVICED ON OR BEFORE 2009 WILL BE DISPOSED ONE MONTH AFTER THIS NOTIFICATION.

SAIPAN COMPUTER SERVICES
P.O. BOX 502148 SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: 234-9110 • FAX: 234-9119

SCS Saipan Computer Services

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Sports
Aloma, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame
32
36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011
Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
CROSSWORD
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011
www.saipantribune.com 50¢
REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky.
In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, the
Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts
Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com
OPINION METER

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
Second Floor,
Marianas Business Plaza
One Nauru Loop
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for
Plaintiff Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC., Plaintiif,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 10 - 0337**
v.	**NOTICE OF SALE**
JAMES T. LIZAMA and MARYANN Q. LIZAMA, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated August 22, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants James T. Lizama and Maryann Q. Lizama's interests in Lot 001 G 103, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, October 14, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 001 G 103, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 03, the original of which was recorded 20 March 1986 as Document No. 86-0510 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 22nd of September, 2011.

/S/ Gregory J. Koebel
Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

Cano, Nova lead Yankees past Tigers

AP

New York Yankees' Ivan Nova throws to the Detroit Tigers in the ninth inning during the continuation of Game 1 of baseball's American League division series on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York. The Yankees won, 9-3.

NEW YORK (AP)—No national anthem, all Yankees.

Robinson Cano hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, rookie Ivan Nova pitched brilliantly into the ninth inning in an unusual relief appearance and New York shook off a 23-hour rain delay to beat the Detroit Tigers 9-3 in their suspended playoff opener Saturday night.

A day after rain wiped out aces Justin Verlander and CC Sabathia after only 1 1/2 innings, the game resumed in the bottom of the second with two new pitchers on the mound.

Cano barely missed a homer on his tiebreaking double in the fifth and New York broke it open with a six-run sixth against losing pitcher Doug Fister. Brett Gardner had a two-run single on an 0-2 pitch with two outs to make it 4-1 and, moments later, Cano connected off Al Alburquerque for his fourth grand slam since Aug. 11.

"My goal is just to win it all," Cano said.

Freddy Garcia starts for New York on Sunday afternoon in Game 2 of the best-of-five American League division series. Max Scherzer gets the ball for the Tigers, who will try to rebound the same way they did against the Yankees in 2006.

That year, Detroit dropped the series opener in New York before winning three straight to stun the heavily favored Yankees in the first round. Game 2 of that playoff was postponed a day by rain. This time, it took two nights to finish the opener.

Along with Curtis Granderson, Cano is one of New York's two leading contenders for AL MVP—and he showed why. Yankees manager Joe Girardi moved the slugger up from fifth to third in the lineup for the playoffs to get him more protection and pitches to hit.

Smart move so far.

"They put you third, so you want to do your job there. You don't want to let your manager down," Cano said. "I did my job today and hopefully I can continue doing it."

Cano added a run-scoring double in the eighth to tie a club record for RBIs in a postseason game—this is New Yorks 50th postseason appearance. His seventh career postseason homer was the 11th slam in Yankees postseason history and the first since Ricky Ledee connected in the 1999 AL championship series against Boston.

Rather than bring in lefthander Daniel Schlereth to face Cano in the sixth, Tigers manager Jim Leyland went with Alburquerque, a righty.

"To me, that's one for everyone else to second-guess. To me that was a no-brainer," Leyland said. "Left-handers are hitting .177 off Alburquerque, .200 off Schlereth. Cano is .320 off of left-handers, .295 off righties. Alburquerque has had a tremendous ratio of swings and misses. He had only faced him one time; he had struck him out."

Derek Jeter threw out a runner at the plate to keep the score tied and bounced a fortunate single through the right side—with second baseman Ryan Raburn covering the bag on a steal play—during the sixth-inning rally.

Nova was demoted to the minors for most of July to open a roster spot when Phil Hughes came off the disabled list. But the right-hander won his final 12 decisions during the regular season and picked up where Sabathia left off Friday, pitching shutout ball into the ninth before 50,940 fans—the largest crowd at the new Yankee Stadium.

"I just wasn't sure how he was going to control his emotions," Girardi said. "I didn't think he had his best stuff today and e still found a way to get outs. But I thought he pitched really well. He pitched to contact. ... I loved what he did today."

After loading the bases in the ninth, Nova was pulled by Girardi. The 24-year-old rookie tipped his cap as the crowd gave him a standing ovation and pounded his chest when he got to the dugout.

"He's a really goodpitcher. He had a good fastball, a good slider. He mixed every pitch," Tigers shortstop Jhonny Peralta said. "He controlled the plate."

Detroit scored twice against Luis Ayala and Girardi took no chances, bringing in Mariano Rivera. The career saves leader got a three-pitch strikeout in a non-save situation.

Rivera also threw out the ceremonial first pitch—Friday night—to longtime teammate Jorge Posada.

Fister, who went 8-1 with a 1.79 ERA after being acquired in a July 30 trade from Seattle, replaced Verlander. The righthander retired 11 in a row before Granderson singled with two outs in the fifth.

Cano followed with a drive to left that hit the top of the fence as several fans in the front row backed away to avoid interfering. The ball caromed back to left fielder Delmon Young and umpires ruled it in play as Granderson scored easily to give New York a 2-1 lead.

Girardi came out for a brief discussion and four umps went under the stands to take a look at the replay. After a 4-minute delay, they came back out and upheld the call.

"Everyone in this row spoke about not reaching over and catching a ball," said the closest fan, 37-year-old Chris Vitali from New Brunswick, N.J. "We said, 'Don't do it. If it's Detroit, fine. Catch it.' ... But, believe me, if it was a little bit further out, I would have dove over the top of the wall to catch it."

The opener resumed after a delay of 23 hours, 29 minutes. There was no national anthem and official scorer Jordan Sprechman announced Verlander's pitching line, a day later, one batter into the game. The Bleacher Creatures gave Yankees starters a second roll call.

Rangers 8, Rays 6

In Arlington, Mike Napoli kept fouling off pitches while Texas Rangers fans chanted his name.

"It was pretty loud, too, and when I heard it, I was like you guys can't do this to me right now in this situation," Napoli said.

He came through anyway.

Napoli's tying two-run single in a five-run fourth inning against suddenly wild Tampa Bay starter James Shields sent the crowd into a real frenzy. It also propelled the Rangers to an 8-6 win Saturday night over the Rays to even the AL division series at a game apiece.

The defending American League champion Rangers had just gotten their first run of the series when Shields hit his second batter of the inning, a fastball near the left knee of Adrian Beltre that forced in a run.

When Shields threw three consecutive balls to Napoli, the chants of "Nap-o-li!, Nap-o-li!" began and only grew louder with each swing. Napoli swung and missed at two pitches, then fouled off three consecutive.

"The whole stadium is chanting his last name, and I get the chills," teammate Ian Kinsler said. "I don't know how he is up there staying focused. ... He kept battling and battling."

Finally on the ninth pitch of the at-bat, Napoli ripped a liner to left that tied the game at 3.

Manager Ron Washington pumped both fists with a shout, team president Nolan Ryan clapped in the front row nearby and those chants turned to earsplitting cheers from a towel-waving crowd of 51,351.

"That hit turned the switch on," Elvis Andrus said.

Then Shields really got wild, throwing two wild pitches while David Murphy was at the plate.

Murphy fell behind 0-2, though he worked back to a full count with a couple of foul balls and a wild pitch that allowed Beltre and Napoli to move up a base.

Next came a pitch that Murphy swung at and missed, but the ball hit in the dirt and ricocheted away from catcher Kelly Shoppach, allowing Beltre to score for a 4-3 lead.

Napoli came home on Mitch Moreland's grounder.

Phillies 11, Cardinals 6

In Philadelphia, Kyle Lohse couldn't beat Roy Halladay twice in two weeks.

Unhittable for a few innings, Lohse later struggled and the St. Louis Cardinals blew an early lead against Halladay, losing 11-6 to the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday night in the opener of their NL division series.

Lance Berkman hit a three-run homer off Halladay in the first, a lead that stood until Ryan Howard connected off Lohse in a five-run sixth.

Now the wild-card Cardinals turn to ace Chris Carpenter, who will pitch on three days' rest for the first time in his career in Game 2 Sunday night against Cliff Lee.

"Well, it's not good to be down 0-1, but when you're the visiting team the goal is to try to win one of the two games here and then go back home and see what happens," Berkman said.

Lohse tossed 7 1-3 strong innings in a 4-3 win over Halladay at Philadelphia on Sept. 19, helping the Cardinals inch closer to a postseason berth they eventually secured on the last day of the regular season.

The righty retired the first 10 batters he faced in this one, but it was downhill from there.

"Lohse pitched pretty well," Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols said. "You take that inning out of the way... he makes Howard have a great at-bat, and they just battled and put something together. I think Lohse, if you look at it, made two mistakes all day and they took advantage of it."

Brewers 4, Diamondbacks 1

In Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo could barely see the return tosses from catcher Jonathan Lucroy, losing them in the bright light filtering through the windows at Miller Park.

Imagine how the Diamondbacks felt.

Gallardo emerged from the shadows, outpitching Arizona ace Ian Kennedy as the Milwaukee Brewers kept winning at home with a 4-1 victory in their NL division series opener on Saturday.

"It was tough for me seeing the ball coming back, just having the sun there in the background. I was just hoping Luc didn't throw one at my face," Gallardo, who knew the shadows would play a role late. "When you have the lead, for myself, I was just going to keep going out and be aggressive knowing little things like that."

Prince Fielder chased Kennedy with a two-out, two-run homer in the seventh inning, helping erase the stigma that the big slugger's playoffs would be anything like 2008, when he went 1 for 14.

Same, too, with Gallardo.

The right-hander retired 14 of 15 during one stretch, perhaps helped by how the shadows cut across the infield. With an early start time, the sun peeked through the retractable roof all afternoon, creating a crazy, changing pattern.

"I've played here almost two years now, so I've kind of gotten used to it. But I can imagine some of the guys on the other team, and the umpires, too, having problems with it," Lucroy said. "It's tough. It's hitting different. Dark, light, dark coming down through the strike zone. It's tough to see sometimes."

Gallardo gave up one run and four hits over eight innings and matched a postseason franchise record with nine strikeouts.

Gallardo was only nicked by Ryan Roberts' home run in the eighth, and won in his first postseason start since a Game 1 loss in the 2008 NLDS to Philadelphia. An All-Star in 2010, he went 17-10 this season, yet is rarely mentioned among the elite pitchers in the game.

He's even overshadowed—so to speak—on his own staff by 2009 AL Cy Young winner Zack Greinke.

No NBA deal after day of salary cap talks

NEW YORK (AP)—With a month until the NBA season, players and owners don't sound much closer to a labor deal than they did when the lockout began.

They're so far apart on money they decided to leave it alone Saturday and focused mainly on the salary cap.

They couldn't solve that one, either.

"I wouldn't say there was any progress. What happened was, they put some concepts up, we put some concepts up, and we're still miles apart," union executive director Billy Hunter said. "There's a huge bridge, gap, that I don't know if we're going to be able to close it or not."

The sides will meet again Monday—the day training camps were to have begun—though time is getting short to save the start of the regular season, scheduled for Nov. 1. Neither side sounds optimistic.

In a seven-hour bargaining session, their longest since the lockout began July 1, the sides talked about one of the two major issues that divides them. Owners want a hard cap, or at least want a number of changes to the current soft cap system, which the players prefer to keep largely intact.

The sides didn't even attempt to deal with the division of revenues, the other big obstacle to a labor agreement that would end the lockout.

Commissioner David Stern said he had nothing to announce in terms of cancellations. But the remainder of the preseason schedule is in jeopardy—some games already have been canceled. Regul

AP

NBA Players Association president Derek Fisher, Los Angeles Lakers point guard, speaks during a news conference after a meeting with owners to discuss a new labor deal and possibly avert a basketball lockout, Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, in New York.

"Our desire would be to not cancel, and we had been hopeful that this weekend would be a broader marker, but for reasons which we understand, the players suggested that we resume on Monday, and we said 'fine,'" Stern said.

Stern did indicate some level of progress, saying: "We're not near anything, but wherever that is, we're closer than we were before."

The sides will meet in small groups, then bring large groups back for another meeting Tuesday.

Hunter again said owners haven't moved off their proposal to trim the players' guarantee of basketball-related income to 46 percent, down from the 57 percent they were guaranteed in the previous collective bargaining agreement.

With the gulf so wide on money, Hunter suggested they separate the issues and attack one at a time. They started with the cap, where the league has transitioned from a desire for a hard cap to a proposal that would make the luxury tax more severe for the highest-spending teams. Union officials fear that would act like a hard cap by scaring teams into spending less to avoid a harsh penalty.

Stern, Hunter and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver all said they felt some good came of going at the cap issue first. But they couldn't resolve it, and it leaves another problem on the horizon largely untouched.

"I can't necessarily characterize things as we made progress and that I'm somehow more optimistic than I was yesterday," union president Derek Fisher of the Lakers said. "The reality is we still have an extremely long way to go. Even with the exchanges that we made today, there's still huge gaps in what we've proposed compared to what they've proposed, and then obviously we still have the economics that are just kind of sitting out there waiting for us to tackle. So there's a lot of work left to be done, but we'll keep at this."

Fisher said the players basically gave the owners a list of things they wanted kept in the next cap, likely things such as the midlevel and Larry Bird exceptions that allow teams to exceed the cap. However, the league is looking for ways to keep costs down for owners, and those items are easy targets.

Stern also confirmed he and Miami All-Star Dwyane Wade had a "heated exchange of some kind" during Friday's meeting. Most of the star players had left by Saturday, but Stern and Silver said they were pleased by the number of players who did show up, singling out Boston's Paul Pierce as one who said some meaningful things.

Hunter said he assumed it would be possible to save the entire season if the sides agreed to a deal by the middle of next week. But that will be difficult, given it could take as much as month between an agreement being reached and the time games could be played, so that free agency and exhibition games can first take place.

Hunter added the union hadn't even signed off on the league's plan for enhanced revenue sharing among teams, after Stern indicated Friday that players would be OK with it.

Even though Stern had warned of "enormous consequences" of not making significant progress toward a deal this weekend, he is remaining hopeful.

"If we didn't think that there was any hope, we wouldn't be scheduling the meetings," he said. "But that's the best I would say right now."

Watney, Na lead in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Nick Watney shot a 7-under 64 on Saturday for a share of the third-round lead with Kevin Na in the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Watney, a two-time winner this year, birdied the final three holes and five of the last six at TPC Summerlin to match Na at 17 under in the Fall Series opener. Na followed his second-round 63 with a 66.

"I'm trying to keep it really simple," Watney said. "I've driven the ball pretty well and it's just been fairly easy to hit quite a bit of greens. I think that's what you need to do out here is give yourself as many chances as possible. I've been able to do that so far. "This course is right out there in front of you. It's fairly short for Tour standards, so it's just about execution."

He won the WGC-Cadillac Championship in March and the AT&T National in July.

Robert Garrigus (63) and Kris Blanks (66) were a stroke back, and Tommy Gainey (64), Paul Goydos (66) and Tim Herron (67) followed at 15 under.

Na, tied for the lead with Jhonattan Vegas and Charlie Wi after the second round, played the front nine in 4 under with five birdies and a bogey, and added a birdie on the par-5 16th to reach 17 under.

"I got off to a really good start on the front nine, made five birdies," Na said. "I felt like I could go real low with a bunch of birdie holes on the back. Unfortunately, I slowed down a bit and missed a few short ones. But to finish 5-under for the day, I was pretty pleased."

Robert Garrigus had nine birdies and a bogey in his 63. Hospitalized for dehydration on Monday in Phoenix, Garrigus opened the round with four straight birdies, then birdied three of the last four.

"I started off on fire," he said. "It was just one of those days when everything was going in early, and I knew if I could sprinkle in some (birdies) late it would be a really good day, and it ended up being nice.

Vegas (69), Roland Thatcher (63), Spencer Levin (64) and Carl Pettersson (66) were 14 under.

The 36-hole cut came at 4-under 138, with 80 players advancing. Because more than 78 players made the cut, there was a secondary cut at 4-under 209 after the third round to the low 70 players and ties.

The 4-under cut tied for the lowest on the PGA Tour this season with the Travelers Championship, John Deere Classic, Viking Classic and The Barclays.

Fran Quinn was the only player left on the course when play was suspended due to darkness Friday. He came back Saturday morning and made a 14-foot birdie putt for a 67 to make the cut. He shot a 76 in the third round to drop out of the tournament.

Italian league arranging deal for Bryant signing

ROME (AP)—The Italian basketball league was attempting Saturday to solve scheduling problems so Virtus Bologna can sign Kobe Bryant during the NBA lockout.

Virtus Bologna President Claudio Sabatini has told The Associated Press he's "very confident" he can complete the deal for the Los Angeles Lakers star.

Related news

The 10-game contract would be worth more than $3 million but hinges on other clubs changing their schedules to ensure Bologna has five home games during the span.

Bologna also wants its opening five road games in Italy's biggest arenas. Smaller clubs Cremona and Varese are reluctant to alter their schedules.

The league said in a statement Saturday it is "working to allow Virtus Bologna to arrange a deal to sign Kobe Bryant," adding it is "convinced this deal could be of key importance for the greater awareness of Italian basketball."

League President Valentino Renzi told the ANSA news agency he was "moderately optimistic" a deal could be made, adding "the situation is definitely complicated."

Bryant lived in Italy between ages 6 and 13 while his father played in the country. He still speaks fluent Italian and has said it would be a "dream" to play there.

Bologna would need to have the deal signed by the end of next week to register Bryant with the Italian league before the season starts Oct. 9.

A statement on Bologna's website late Friday said that in accordance with Bryant's representatives the club will not comment further "until either a positive or negative outcome from the negotiations."

Meanwhile, local media were reporting that another Italian club, Montegranaro, was in talks with Toronto Raptors forward Andrea Bargnani.

Denver Nuggets forward Danilo Gallinari rejoined his former Italian club Olimpia Milano last week, while other NBA players are also joining clubs in Europe and Asia.

With exactly one month until the season is scheduled to start, NBA owners and players were meeting in New York for a second straight day in hopes of ending the lockout.

An agreement on a new labor deal may be necessary in the next few days to avoid having to cancel regular-season games. Part of the preseason already has been scrapped, and Commissioner David Stern has said there must be progress this weekend or there will be "enormous consequences."

Sonics keep winning streak in Rotary U19 caging

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Sonics preserved their winning run in the U19 division of the 2011 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after beating Hi-Five, 47-36, during their game last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

After enduring a tough loss in the season opener, the Sonics won their last six games, while Hi-Five finished the regular season with a 3-4 record.

Hi-Five's Clarence Sablan scored five points in the opening period, but the Sonics still managed an 8-7 lead by spreading the ball well in their half court offense.

Then the Sonics ran the court in the second quarter and gashed a 27-20 margin at the half. The Sonics continued their balance scoring in the second canto with seven players contributing on offense.

In the second half, the Sonics kept the upper hand as they made some defensive adjustments and contained Hi-Five to just eight points in the third period. By the end of the third period, the Sonics stretched their lead to nine, 37-28.

In the fourth quarter, the Sonics slowed down the pace and milked the clock to keep their winning streak.

Melvin Cadiang top-scored for the Sonics with nine points, while Nikko Salem turned in a game-high 13 in the loss.

Meanwhile, according to the U19 league schedule, the regular season wraps up today with the Ol'Aces taking on the CK Blazers at 5pm.

Sonics 47 – Cadiang 9, Caro 8, Ne Salem 7, Del Rosario 4, Ecalnea 4, De Guzman 4, Tudela 4, Palacios 3, Sula 2, Villanueva 2.

Hi-Five 36 – Ni. Salem 13, Sablan 9, F. Macahito 5, Urbano 3, Hockett 2, Duarte 2, Manibusan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-7, 27-20, 37-28, 47-36.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Sonics' Ezra Caro takes a shot against a phalanx of Hi-Five defenders during their game in the Rotary U19 caging last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

JETS

From Page 28

also lost possession after getting the pass from Caro and Christian Devero connected on a layup. Despite Devero's basket, there was no way MDX could catch up as it was still behind by four points and time had almost ran out. The Jets melted down the remaining seconds on the clock after Devero's convertion to clinch the second finals berth.

Cadiang top-scored for the Jets with 24 points, while Hossain chipped in 21. Caro and Manglona also finished in double figures with 12 and 10 markers, respectively.

The quartet teamed up in the Jets' second-quarter attack where they outgunned MDX, 28-19, to turn an 18-23 deficit at the end of the first period to a 46-42 halftime lead.

The Jets protected the driver's seat in the third canto with Hossain and Cadiang still on target and coach Leo Canedo drawing contributions from every player he fielded on the court.

In contrast, MDX coach Peter Crisostomo kept shuffling his men, as he could not find the right combination on the floor and his team still trailed after three periods, 59-66.

The Jets then started the fourth quarter with back-to-back triples from Hossain and Cadiang for their biggest lead, 71-59, and this forced MDX to call an early time out. MDX regrouped and slowly sliced the Jets' lead, but the former could not complete the recovery, as Hossain and company played steady in the closing seconds of the match.

Duenas led MDX's losing cause with his game-high 29 markers.

AFP/Jets 89 – Cadiang 24, Hossain 21, Caro 12, Manglona 10, Webb 6, Deleon Guerrero 5, Benavente 3, De Leon 3, Sambile 2.

MDX/Armatech 85 – Duenas 29, Devero 20, Castro 11, Rollon 7, Vertudez 6, Metran 4, Feria 3, Ano 3, Maranan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-23, 46-42, 66-59, 89-85.

BLOWOUT

From Page 28

the six points of Lalaine Pagarao for a 20-10 halftime advantage.

Pagarao added six more points in the third quarter to keep the double-digit lead 26-16, with eight minutes left in the match. Kunoichi's shooters caught fire in the fourth quarter and ran away with it in the end.

Mendoza led Kunoichi with 14 points, while John Tam and Kioni Dela Cruz top-scored for the Ol'Aces with six points apiece.

670 Rollers 57, Party Rockers 28

In the last game, the Rollers went right at the Party Rockers and took a 16-9 lead in the opening eight minutes. Prince Factor headed the surge with eight points.

The Rollers did not let up in the second canto and trudged ahead at halftime, 26-15. Five players contributed on offense for Rollers, while on defense they contained Party Rockers to three baskets

Party Rockers' Rachel Abrams managed 10 markers in the first half, but hardly received any support from her teammates. Party Rockers' offense stalled again after the pause, while the Rollers kept hitting their mark and led, 43-22, heading into the final period.

The party was over by the start of the fourth quarter, as Party Rockers continued to struggle on offense.

Factor finished with a team-high 11 points, while Party Rockers' Abramas led all scorers with 12.

First Game

NMC Proa 45 – Deleon Guerrero 8, K. Mendoza 8, Cepeda 5, J. Palacios 5, T. Palacios 4, De Leon 4,Manalili 4, Smithie 4, Capuyon 2, Puno 1.

RBC Angels 31 – Morales 13, Caro 6, Itaas 4, D. Feria 2, Abobo 4, Valencia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-0, 30-2, 35-17, 45-31.

Second Game

Kunoichi 41– Mendoza 14, Pagarao 13, Alegre 10, Williams 4.

Ol'Aces 22 – Tam 6, Dela Cruz 6, Ellama 4, Ocaya 2, Cruz 2, Alfred 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-6, 20-10, 26-14, 41-22.

Third Game

670 Rollers 57 – Factor 11, E. Feria 10, Camacho 8, Ano 6, Admana 4, Floresca 4, Espinosa 4, Malonzo 2, Iglesias 2, Pangelinan 2, Lansang 2, Cayading 2.

Party Rockers 28 – Abrams 12, Ito 6, Lebria 4, Castillo 4, Samson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 26-15, 43-22, 57-28.

TITANIUM

From Page 28

2's four batters reached base. Fourth batter Ian Rogolifoi belted in Kai Wanket home with a base rip and Khobby Kaipat scored Masaharu with a fielder's choice.

Then Jerry Kintol kept it rolling with an RBI single that brought in Rogolifoi and Kaipat scored off a wild pitch.

After the damage, Joseph Palacios came to the mound for Tony Guerrero to close the frame. Palacios went on keep a lid on the Fielders in four innings of work, however his teammates could not muster hardly any offense to get back in the game.

Winning pitcher Rogolifoi gave up just one hit in three innings with three strikeouts. Masaharu batted 2-for-4 with two runs and a stolen base.

Titanium 7, Fielders1 3

The Fielders 1 took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Carl Camacho cranked a two-RBI single that scored Kevin Villagomez and Pat Tenorio.

Titanium answered in the next inning and took a 3-2 lead off just one hit and some errors.

Fielders 1 briefly tied the game at 3-all in the bottom frame. Jared Lizama reached on a single, was moved to second off a sacrifice bunt, stole third base, and came home off an error.

Titanium's leadoff man Tony Guerrero answered in the bottom frame, reaching first off a base rip, moving to second off a balk, taking third off a wild pitch, and scoring off a passed ball to give the lead back to Titanium, 4-3.

The Fielders offense dwindled out in the remainder of the contest, while Titanium went on to add two more runs of as many hits in the fourth and another run for good measure in the seventh inning when Brian Camacho hit a one out single, stole second, and made it home off a passed ball.

Wining pitcher Joseph Atalig came to the mound in the fourth inning and shut down the Fielders, giving up just one hit in four innings with three strikeouts.

Titanium's Guerrero and Camacho both batted 2-for-4 for two runs apiece.

Ol'Aces 7, Lions 1

The Ol'Aces drew first blood with two runs in the top of the first inning. Diego Camacho led off with a base hit and scored off a passed ball, while Frankie Camacho followed with a single and came home off an error. The Lions stranded a man at third base in the bottom frame.

The Ol'Aces then added a run in the second when Lancaster Secharmedal drove in Jacob Flores. The Lions left a man at second base in the bottom frame.

The Ol'Aces pulled ahead, 5-0, in the third off three hits.

Frankie Camacho led off with a base knock and was brought in off a double by AJ Lizama. Two batters later, Rocco Reyes scored Lizama with an RBI single.

The Lions opted for a pitching change at the start of the fourth inning, but the Ol'Aces went on to add two more runs off two hits and errors. Lions' Keene Guerrero stepped to the rubber for Jonah Flores; The Lions engine stalled again in the bottom frame.

Lion's Guerrero settled down after a shaky start and kept a lid on the Ol'Aces for the remainder of the game, as his team narrowly escaped a shutout in their final stand.

Harry Nakamura pitched three flawless innings with four strikeouts for the Ol'Aces. He also closed the sixth inning of the match in just seven pitches. Frankie Camacho swang 3- for-4 with an RBI, two runs, and a stolen base, while Diego Camacho batted 2-for-3 with two runs and a base on balls.

The season continues on Saturday with Titanium taking on the Lions at 9am and the Ol'Aces battling the Fielders 1 at 11:30am. Then the Lions retake the field to challenge Fielders 2 at 1pm.

BORANAH

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Curate and Luis Camacho in the other pairing in the first round of the playoffs, 21-7, 19-21, 21-6. In the semis, Boranah and Ortega prevailed anew, 21-18, 16-21, 21-16, to move into the championship game.

Omori and Santos had an easier route to the finals as they automatically advanced to the championship match after sweeping the elimination games, 6-0. Then Omori and Santos didn't play for several days, as they waited for their finals opponents and when it was game time, they were lethargic and could not keep pace with Boranah and Ortega.

Ortega and Boranah raced to a 12-2 lead and never looked back to take the first game. In the second game, Omori and Santos played better, but Boranah and Ortega were more aggressive, out-hustling their well-rested but sluggish foes.

Meanwhile, the championship games of the four other divisions were played last night, but results were unavailable at press time.

In the mixed doubles lower A finals, it was Gary Bandoja and Hannah Choi versus Toshiko Obata and Dick Guintu. Bandoja and Choi marched into the title game after sweeping their elimination round games, while Guintu and Obata booked the second championship ticket after slipping past Annette Quiambao and Ferdie Arago in the semis on Saturday night, 21-16, 14-21, 21-18.

Bandoja also played in the mixed doubles B and teamed up with Oh In Sook. They were scheduled to battle the championship against Oh Imbog and Toshiko Obata, who prevailed over Marylyn Montano and Lito Mendoza in the semis, 21-17, 21-13.

In the elite mixed doubles A finals, Guintu and Choi earned a chance to challenge the unbeaten tandem of Angie Ito and Andrew Galvez. Choi and Guintu marched into the finals after topping Arago and Lani Bartolome in the semis, 21-10, 21-14.

The mixed doubles 40-and-above finale featured the undefeated pairs of Guintu and Sook and Mario Diola and Choi.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN SCORES

LAS VEGAS (AP) – Scores Saturday from the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,243-yard, par-71 TPC Summerlin.

Third Round

Nick Watney	65-67-64–196
Kevin Na	67-63-66–196
Robert Garrigus	66-68-63–197
Kris Blanks	66-65-66–197
Tommy Gainey	67-67-64–198
Paul Goydos	66-66-66–198
Tim Herron	65-66-67–198
Roland Thatcher	68-68-63–199
Spencer Levin	68-67-64–199
Carl Pettersson	66-67-66–199
Jhonattan Vegas	63-67-69–199
William McGirt	63-69-68–200
Brendan Steele	66-65-69–200
Rod Pampling	65-70-66–201
David Duval	66-71-64–201
Harrison Frazar	65-69-67–201
Bryce Molder	68-66-67–201
Joe Ogilvie	68-66-67–201
Garrett Willis	65-68-68–201
Nick O'Hern	71-67-63–201
Kevin Streelman	66-66-69–201
David Hearn	69-67-66–202
Steven Bowditch	67-69-66–202
Bill Lunde	70-66-66–202
Alex Prugh	67-68-67–202
Martin Laird	70-66-66–202
Bobby Gates	68-67-67–202
Ben Crane	67-67-68–202
Vaughn Taylor	65-69-68–202
Kyle Stanley	69-64-69–202
Billy Horschel	66-66-70–202
Scott Piercy	67-65-70–202
Charlie Wi	64-66-72–202
Kevin Kisner	70-66-67–203
Jason Bohn	70-66-67–203
Nathan Green	64-72-67–203
Trevor Immelman	67-67-69–203
Brian Gay	67-67-69–203
Woody Austin	68-69-66–203
Boo Weekley	67-65-71–203
Kevin Stadler	68-70-65–203
Stephen Ames	71-67-65–203
Bob Estes	66-70-68–204
Blake Adams	65-70-69–204
Derek Lamely	65-71-68–204
Michael Bradley	69-66-69–204
Tag Ridings	69-68-67–204
Jonathan Byrd	71-66-67–204
Chad Campbell	71-67-66–204
Hunter Haas	71-61-72–204
Greg Chalmers	68-68-69–205
Arjun Atwal	66-70-69–205
Josh Teater	71-64-70–205
D.J. Brigman	67-66-72–205
Billy Mayfair	67-70-68–205
Kevin Chappell	69-67-70–206
Joseph Bramlett	70-66-70–206
Scott McCarron	71-65-70–206
Steve Flesch	65-70-71–206
Briny Baird	68-69-69–206
Rocco Mediate	67-71-68–206
Tim Petrovic	67-70-70–207
Charley Hoffman	71-66-70–207
Ben Curtis	69-68-70–207
Aron Price	68-70-69–207
Steve Elkington	67-69-72–208
Ricky Barnes	70-68-70–208
Will Strickler	66-70-73–209
Nate Smith	67-68-74–209
Cameron Beckman	72-64-73–209
Cameron Tringale	66-71-72–209
Cameron Percy	68-69-72–209
John Merrick	67-71-71–209
Paul Stankowski	67-71-71–209

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Cage teams near Promised Land

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four squads survived their respective semis assignments to move a win away from clinching the championship trophies in the UFO Inter-Organization Masters and Youth Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011.

In the masters division, Cabalen/Wings Travel routed MAFEA/RNV in the semis, 87-63, to book the first finals berth. The second finals seat went to MDX/Armatech, which slipped past VisMinda/PIAHI, 76-68, in the other semis pairing.

In the youth division, the Jets were the last ones to advance to the finals after edging MDX/Armatech in the semis last Saturday, 89-85, while Filcag/Rollers had earlier notched the first finals slot after ousting Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense, 85-82.

Still in the UFO caging, Namfrel/Proa swept the regular season of the open division and took the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs after beating Cabalen/Noni last week, 82-79. Cabalen dropped to No. 3 and was scheduled to play Bayani/Mobil in the first round of the playoffs. Other pairings are UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics against Cavite/Andok's and MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt versus VisMinda/Satbahi. Winners of the first three playoff matches will join Proa in the semifinals.

Still in basketball, Cell Pro notched the second finals berth in the Blue Haus caging after downing Sherwin Williams in the playoffs, 75-71. Cell Pro was scheduled to collide against Micronesian Brokers, Inc. in the one-game finals last night.

In other results last week, the Fielders 2 posted back-to-back wins in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association's Youth Summer/Fall League; Raymond Angeles and Elena Soll topped the Saipan Bowling Association/Budweiser September roll-offs, while M.J. Aldan ruled the Fiji Water youth event; Konflikt prevailed in a 3-on-3 tournament; and Mieko Carey, Erico Castro, and Nap Dizon triumphed in the Bike For Life.

On-going leagues and tournaments on Saipan also continued with the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic completing its elimination round games and the Rotary youth caging continuing its regular season matches at the TSL Sports Complex.

Over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association opened its youth fall league with sister teams MP United 1 and 2 routing separate foes and Tan Holdings winning over Paire in the boys U15. The lone boys U18 match was also played at the Oleai pitch with Paire stunning defending champion MP United, 3-2. In the girls U15 played at the San Antonio Elementary School Field, MP United and Matansa downed Paire and Tan Holdings, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bikers pedal up to San Vicente during last week's Bike For Life.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Fielders 2's Nate Guerrero deals a pitch against Fielders 1 during their game in the SML Summer/Fall Youth Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gigi Zapanta returns during her and Jerry Hibi's game against Cheng Saturno and Edwin Montoya in the mixed doubles 40-and-above division of the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MDX/Armatech's Bernard Monano makes a layup during their semis match against VisMinda/PIAHI in the UFO Docomo Cup last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Cabalen/Wings Travel's Tony Diaz goes for a layup against MAFEA/RNV during their semis game in the UFO Docomo Cup last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Namfrel/Proa's Dan Barcinas goes for a layup against two Cabalen/Noni defenders during their game in the UFO Bud Cup last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Hi-Five (red uniform) and Sonics players battle for the loose ball during their game in the Rotary caging last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jets pilot way into UFO finals

Boranah, Ortega top mixed doubles C

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The pair of Kim Boranah and Joel Ortega was the first team to win a championship in the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic after sweeping its finals foe last Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Boranah and Ortega defeated Kanata Omori and Cleofe Santos in the mixed doubles C title game, 21-4, 21-14.

The eventual champions advanced to the finals after winning two games in the playoffs. They first downed Jerome Malasarte and Chris Obaldo, 21-19, 21-18, to arrange a semis tiff against Brandon Talania and Wendy Fernandez, who survived Elna

See BORANAH on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kim Boranah stretches for a return during her and Joel Ortega's title game against Kanata Omori and Cleofe Santos in the mixed doubles C division of the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic on Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Titanium splits games in SML youth

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Fielders 1 catcher Arthur Jebehn tags out Titanium's Joseph Atalig at the plate during their game in the SML Summer/Fall Youth Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfied.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Titanium avoided being swept by Fielders teams in the Saipan Major League's Summer/Fall Youth Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Titanium bowed to the Fielders 2, 2-5, in the opening match and went on to recover in the second game against Fielders 1, 7-3. The Ol'Aces routed the Kagman Lions, 7-1, in the final pairing.

The Fielders 2 broke the ice in the top of the first inning when Poland Masaharu reached off an error and scored later off a passed ball.

Titanium tied it up in the bottom of the second inning off an RBI single by Joseph Atalig. Atalig drove in Manny Flores, who stole second base after being hit by a pitch.

Fielders 2 answered in the top of the third and shot ahead, 5-1. The storm brewed as Fielders

See TITANIUM on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The AFP/Jets secured the second and last finals slot in the UFO Inter-Organization Youth Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 after outclassing MDX/Armatech, 89-85, in their semis match on Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The Jets will play Filcag/Rollers in the one-game championship duel this Saturday, while MDX will meet Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense in the consolation game before the title tiff.

The Filcag/Rollers-Jets championship showdown was arranged after the latter survived MDX's repeated comeback bids in the fourth quarter and canned crucial free throws to keep the win. MDX faltered on its bid to steal the game after having poor shot selection and committing a couple of errors in the homestretch.

MDX threatened the Jets, 83-86, with 42.6 seconds to go, after Matt Duenas made a steal in the Jets inbound play and drilled a layup. However, after the basket, Duenas was called for a technical foul on an infraction in the Jets' inbound play

The Jets' Sahj Hossain went on to split his free throws and his team retained possession, but failed to cash in on its offensive set, keeping its lead at four, 87-83, with 37.6 seconds left on the clock.

Facing a manageable margin with still a lot of time left in the fourth canto, MDX opted for a triple instead of a quick two and Pedro Castro's attempt from the right key was too strong. The Jets collared the rebound and MDX was forced to foul Eugene Manglona to stop the clock, which stood at 33.9 seconds.

Manglona, who earlier was 1-for-2 at the stripe, this time canned both charities, giving the Jets enough cushion, 89-83. MDX then committed an error in the ensuing play with its inbound pass intercepted by Ezra Caro. However, Ian Benavente

See JETS on Page 26

The Jets' Eugene Manglona escapes with a fastbreak layup against MDX/Armatech's Matt Duenas during their semis game in the youth division of the UFO Docomo Cup on Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blowout wins in Rotary U15 caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Three teams eased past their respective foes in the U15 division of the 2011 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basteball League last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the first match, Proa showed no mercy against the RBC Angels and cruised to a 45-31 victory.

Proa rumbled to an early 12-0 lead in the opening period with its six players making it to the scoreboard. Proa kept its foot on the gas pedal and amassed a daunting 30-2 advantage at halftime.

Proa then eased up after the break and Angels' Christian Morales buried a trio of three-pointers and scored 11 points in the third quarter. However Proa remained comfortably in control, 35-17, heading into the final stanza.

The game was out of reach by the start of the final period. Proa's Shane Deleon Guerrero and Kobe Mendoza finished with eight points apiece, while Angels' Morales turned in a game-high 13 on the short end.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Party Rockers' Rachel Abrams, right, gets ready to catch an inbound pass, while Rollers 670's Justin Cayading chases her during their game in the Rotary caging last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kunoichi 41, Ol'Aces 22

In the second pairing, Jaime Mendoza scored six points in the first quarter to lift Kunoichi to a slim 8-6 lead.

Kunoichi's then knocked down a pair of trey to go with

See BLOWOUT on Page 26